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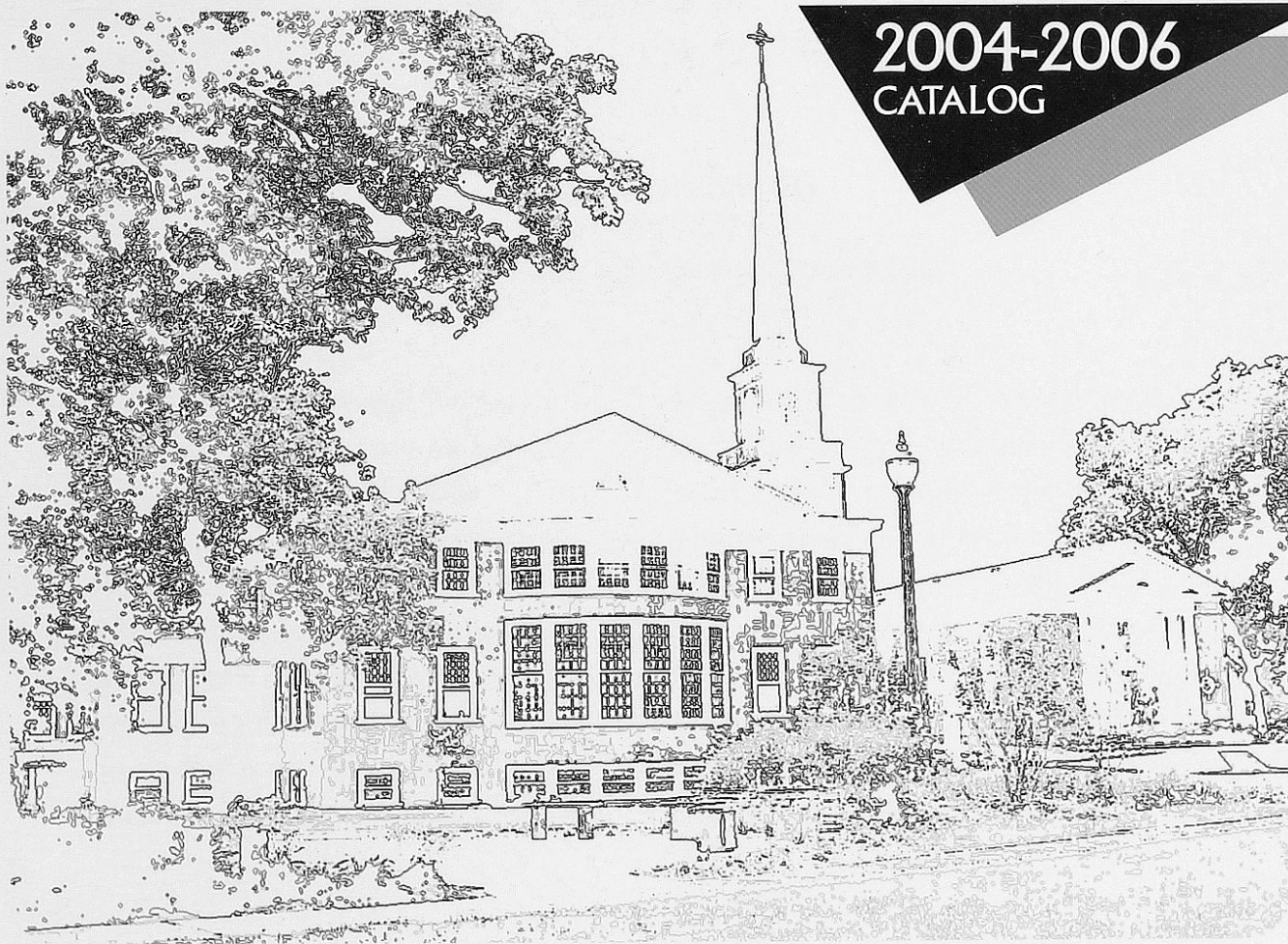
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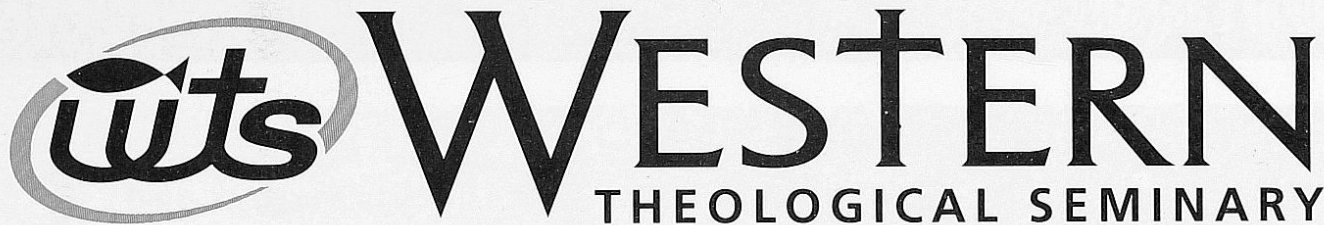
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2004-2006
CATALOG



wts **WESTERN**
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



For Admissions

1-800-392-8554

admissions@westernsem.edu

It is the purpose of Western Theological Seminary to prepare Christians called by God to lead the church in mission.

Established by the Reformed Church in America in 1866, Western Theological Seminary is an evangelical and ecumenical community of faith and learning in the Reformed tradition that serves the church of Jesus Christ. In covenant with the Reformed Church in America, Western equips men and

women for Christ-centered, biblically based, theologically integrated, culturally sensitive, mission-oriented Christian leadership.

Western welcomes students from the Reformed Church in America and also from many other Christian traditions. It is a community of faith, teaching, and learning that engages in theological scholarship and offers graduate degree programs and continuing education for clergy and lay leaders in the church.

A Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in America

101 East 13th Street • Holland, MI 49423 • 616-392-8555 • Fax: 616-392-7717 • www.westernsem.edu

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This is an urgent time for the church of Jesus Christ. The challenges of this new century are making themselves felt. Western students will graduate to serve the church in the traditional roles of pastor and teacher, but also as counselors, scholars, chaplains, and in a host of ministries that would have been unimaginable a generation ago. Western Seminary is dedicated to providing them with the finest possible preparation for ministry in the twenty-first century.



Welcome to Western Theological Seminary

Western Theological Seminary is dedicated to educating men and women to serve the world through the church of Jesus Christ. It nurtures students' spiritual, theological, and professional development through courses in professional ministry fields, active practice in various ministry settings, and biblical and theological study, as well as through its life as a community within the larger body of Christ.

Professional Ministry

The Reformed Church in America established Western in the 19th century to provide clergy for the burgeoning new churches of a Dutch immigrant population. Today Western continues to serve the Reformed Church by preparing men and women for the tasks they will face as ministers and educators in churches and church-related organizations, chaplaincies, and missions. Western also welcomes students from many denominations and benefits from the enriching perspectives they bring. Increasingly, students with a wide variety of vocational goals come to Western to deepen their Christian witness within those vocations.

This focus on applied ministry is central to Western's mission. Faculty members bring practical ministry experience as well

as strong academic credentials to their teaching task. Western's professional degree programs are structured within an overarching context of on-site learning and personal growth called Formation for Ministry. Students find their studies placed in context as they work in a variety of short- and long-term ministry placements.

At Western students work hard to prepare for the challenges they will face after graduation. They learn and practice the basic skills of ministry. They grapple with the relationship of the gospel to our culture and what ministry means in 21st century North America. They explore specific ministry settings, become acquainted with a variety of people in church vocations, and strive to clarify their own callings. They prepare to take places of leadership and service in the church.

Theological Study

Ministry is about more than skills, and seminary is more than job training. It's a place for concentrated biblical and theological study. Without such careful study, ministry too easily falls into technique, manipulation, shallowness, or faddishness rather than exhibiting the vitality that comes from constantly deepening the

church's engagement with the Word of God. That's why the curriculum is centered on the study of the Bible—its languages, history, themes, and interpretation. Built around that center are studies in the history and traditions of the church, in theology, and in the foundations and practice of ministry—ethics, pastoral care and counseling, preaching, and more.



Western's faculty is committed to its scholarly task and participates actively in the larger community of scholars. Professors hold memberships in the professional organizations of their fields and regularly publish books and articles. Often, and in a variety of ways, they provide leadership in the continuing search for greater understanding of the church's faith and mission.

The faculty is no less committed to its educational task. With a faculty/student

ratio of approximately one to twelve, Western can provide the intimate atmosphere that best fosters learning. Professors are easily available for formal and informal academic support and often serve outside the classroom as valued mentors and spiritual guides.

Western students build a foundation in biblical studies, theology and history, and the traditions of the church. This foundation enables them to minister out of the deep heritage of the church's accumulated wisdom and continuing faith. They are well prepared for further academic study, if they so choose. They are given tools not only to understand the faith and wisdom of the past but also to continue to seek out new understandings that the world and the church need today.

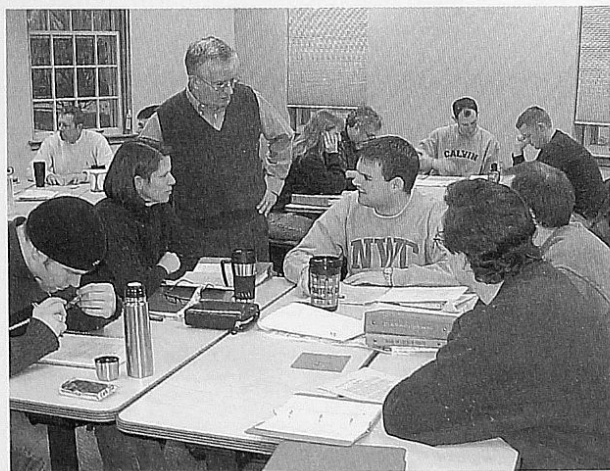


Community

Western is a community of students, teachers, staff, visitors, and friends united by a common task, but more fundamentally united by a common faith. Western is a community of faith. The chapel has often been called the heart of Western Seminary, and with good reason. Daily worship and weekly communion provide the context for taking up daily challenges, celebrating milestones and victories, mourning losses, and meeting each other before God. Here we remember who we are.

If the chapel is its heart, Western's main artery is the hallway that connects the chapel at one end of the building to the new addition in the middle and to the library at the other end. Between the poles of prayer and study, faith and knowledge, lie the classrooms and offices in which much of the work of the seminary takes place. Access is direct and open to professors, staff members, and other students, and all are invited to mingle daily at a morning break in the Commons to share news and friendship.

Between classes students can interact, relax, or study in the sunny atrium in the center of the seminary. With a bookstore/coffeeshop to satisfy the longings of body and soul, gathering places for laughter and





fellowship, and wireless internet access readily available for study, the atrium is the “village square” at the center of the school. Students also meet in the student lounge, located in the lower level under the business office, where computer workstations, a small kitchen, and a variety of gathering areas provide additional space for fellowship and conversation.

Student housing, too, fosters a sense of community. Townhouse apartments are arranged around a central green where students find pleasant, modern living spaces able to accommodate families as well as single people. Student-led social events provide opportunities to get to know other students, faculty, and staff.

Bible study groups encourage spiritual growth. In all these ways Western seeks to build a community to which all can belong.

Western is also part of communities beyond its walls. Recognizing its participation in the larger church, the seminary provides continuing education for congregational leaders, both lay and ordained; sends representatives to various assemblies, boards, and commissions of the Reformed church; and participates in ecumenical associations. Western is

developing a distance learning Master of Divinity program to draw into its life and mission those who long to be prepared for ministry but who are unable to move to the seminary campus for a residential program. The institution also encourages the active involvement of students, faculty, and staff in their home congregations.

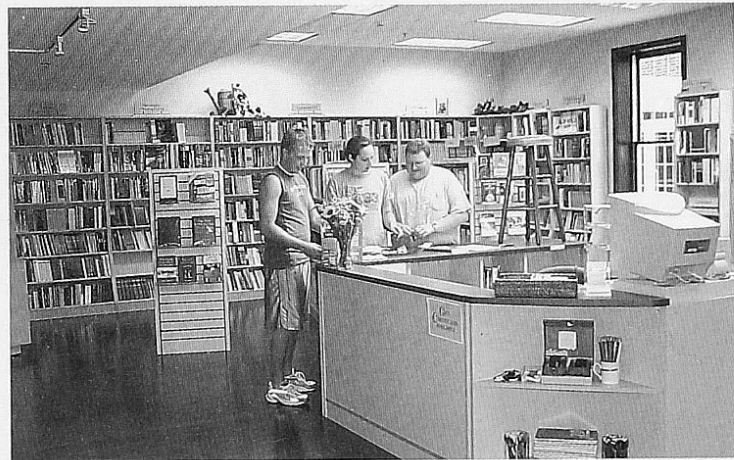
Western has realized its need to serve more directly in its host community and beyond. Acting on that awareness, Western houses a midday hot meal program called the “Community Kitchen” run by a local relief agency and staffed by volunteers. The seminary also operates a non-profit store called “The Bridge” in Holland’s popular downtown shopping area. The store makes the work of artisans from around the world available to shoppers, while promoting self-help and fair profits for the artisans.



The Western Community and Resources



*Community Life
Continuing Education
Affiliated Ministries
Facilities and Resources*



Community Life

Many of Western's students come to this seminary out of the Reformed Church in America to prepare for ministry in the context of their denominational home and to deepen their understanding of the Reformed heritage. A significant number of others come from many different denominational backgrounds as Western increasingly becomes a center for theological study in the West Michigan area. While many students enter directly into a degree program, others come simply to test the possibility of a ministry vocation or to enrich their own theological understanding. In addition, each year a number of international students and practicing clergy come to Western to study for advanced degrees. Together these men and women form a student body that is diverse in age, life and family circumstances, experience, education, ethnicity, and tradition.

As each new class enters, its members become not only part of Western's student body but part of a community that includes faculty and staff, as well. The seminary is itself a member of the community of Holland, Michigan, and of the Reformed Church in America. Western works to promote a sense of community at all these levels. Within Western, activities from chapel to basketball are open to



all and regularly mix professors, students, administrators, and staff in worship, social, and study settings. Such gatherings promote understanding and open doors to deep friendships and individual care. Looking outward, Western encourages students to build ties to its larger communities in a variety of ways. These include becoming involved in local church life, serving or eating at the Community Kitchen, serving as student representatives to a variety of church bodies, and learning about the denomination's worldwide mission through international study opportunities. Following are brief introductions to some aspects of community life at Western.

The City of Holland

Western Theological Seminary is located in the heart of Holland, Michigan, on the southeastern shore of Lake Michigan. A wide variety of industry and commerce provides a prosperous economy, while Holland's proximity to larger urban areas (25 miles to Grand Rapids, 150 miles to Chicago, 170 to Detroit) makes a whole spectrum of cultural activities and other services accessible to Holland residents.

Holland is a deeply religious city. In the 1840s, a group of Dutch Reformed Christians separated from the state church in the Netherlands. Soon they began to come to America looking for a place to worship according to their beliefs and to

escape the poverty many of them faced in the Netherlands. Led by the Rev. Albertus Van Raalte, some of those immigrants founded Holland in 1847. Although today people of many ethnic backgrounds and religious beliefs call Holland home, the city remains a strong center of activity for the Reformed Church in America. In addition to Western Seminary, Hope College—one of three Reformed Church colleges—is located here, as are many vital Reformed Church congregations.

Holland's active religious life is an advantage for Western students, who find many options open to them for worship, for membership in local congregations, and for places to practice ministry. Holland is also home to a number of service-based ministries, as people of faith reach out to those who are struggling in this community and in more distant parts of the world.

Worship and Spiritual Growth

Chapel services, led by faculty, students, and visiting preachers, are held every morning during the academic year. These take place both in Western's John R. Mulder Chapel and the more informal setting of Semelink Hall, and encompass many styles of worship.

Students also participate in seminary-sponsored Bible studies, community conversations, spiritual growth groups, or other activities, depending on their interests. In addition, the city of Holland and nearby communities are filled with opportunities for worship, musical performances, retreats, spiritual conferences, and small-group study.

Fall Retreat

Each academic year begins with a day-long retreat for students, staff, and faculty at Geneva Camp and Conference Center, located north of Holland on the Lake Michigan shore. The day's study, worship, and recreation in the relaxed and

beautiful outdoor setting afford students and their families an opportunity to become acquainted with each other and the entire Western community.

Table Fellowship

Students are invited to gather with faculty and staff each morning for refreshments immediately following worship, and for all-seminary luncheons once each month. Lunch at the Community Kitchen (p. 12) is open to students. Holidays and special events also provide opportunities to celebrate together.

Student Council

The Student Council is made up of representatives from each class and a faculty advisor. It sponsors social activities and athletic events, addresses academic concerns, and supports common worship, involvement in mission, and social action. It meets regularly during the academic year.

Seminary Publications

The Commons is a newsletter for Western alumni/ae and friends. It is published three times a year.

The Reformed Review is a theological journal published three times a year by Western Seminary.



The Center for the Continuing Education of the Church

Through the Center for the Continuing Education of the Church, the seminary offers nourishment for the church's continuous learning and the lifelong learning of its leaders. It focuses on providing two things that are important for the renewal, recovery, and health of the church. One is biblical and theological discernment. The other is vision for the life and mission of the church. It offers both of these in a critical engagement with the cultural contexts in which the RCA and other North American churches live.

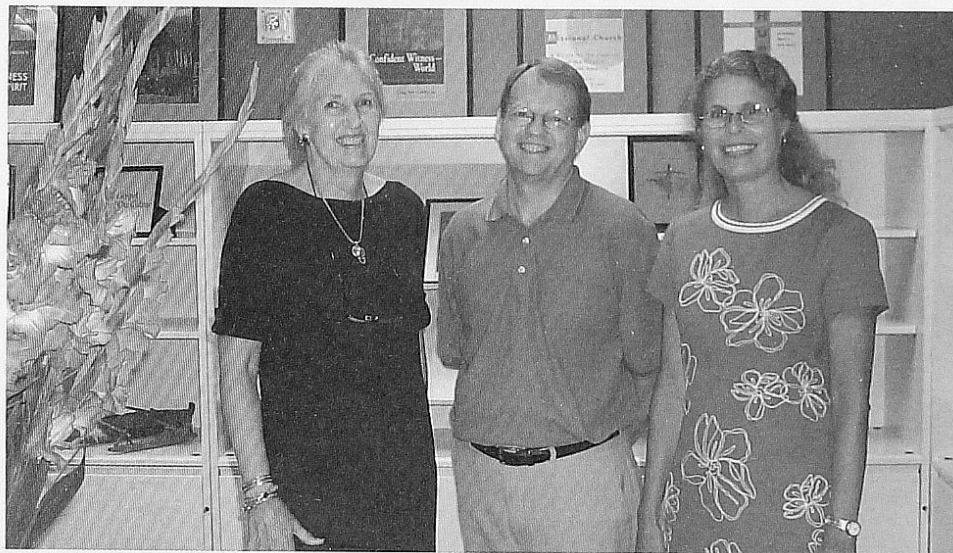
In the work of the Center, the accent falls on mentoring people and groups in a spirit of companionship and spiritual friendship. It is the aim of the Center to be "a companion among the churches for their renewal as communities of the presence of God." Therefore, the Center's primary work comes in the form of collaboration with communities of learners on a common learning journey. The Center works to cultivate readiness to learn, build links and learning alliances, and offer consultation and guidance to give learning intentional focus.

The Center also continues the seminary's heritage of offering public events such as lectureships, conferences, consultations, and workshops (CONnects). It facilitates programs that are designed to equip the church for its mission, such as the Gospel and Our Culture Network, Children and Worship, the Bast Program in Preaching, and the Ridder Leadership Program.

The Gospel and Our Culture Network

Western Seminary houses the administrative offices of the Gospel and Our Culture Network, whose work is coordinated by Dr. George Hunsberger. The network is a collaborative association of church leaders who share the purpose of providing useful research regarding the gospel's encounter with North American culture and encouraging local action for transformation in the life and witness of the church.

The network was born out of the need for a fresh discovery of the meaning of the gospel in the midst of the rapid cultural changes taking place in our part of the Western world. It exists to help churches develop mission identities, that is, to become communities who are able to show what it means to believe the gospel, and to live and speak in terms of that belief.



Judy Bos, administrative associate, George Hunsberger, dean, Vicky Menning, program staff

The network consists of pastors, scholars, church administrators, students, and others involved in ministry from a wide range of denominational backgrounds and geographical locations across the United States and Canada.

Members meet each other to talk, to share research and conduct new research together, to develop resources for local ministry, and to



encourage other creative efforts toward partnership and renewal. For more information, please visit www.gocn.org.



CONnectS

(CONtinuing Education for Christian Training and Service)

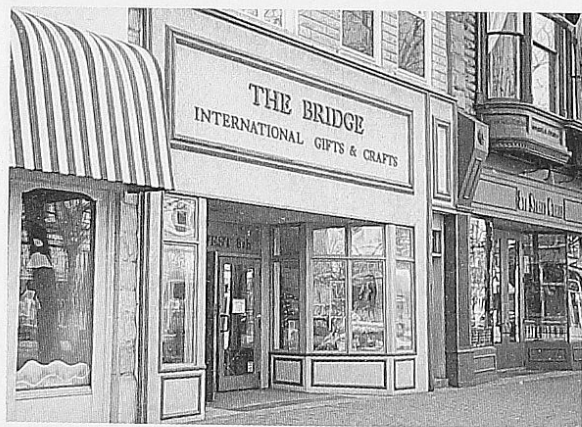
CONnectS is the Center's annual cycle of lectures, workshops, special events, and international travel seminars. An annual guest lecture series brings scholars and church leaders from a variety of fields to campus to address students, faculty, and the interested public on topics of current interest to the church and the theological community. Frequent one-day workshops draw local church leaders together to work on practical ministry issues. Members and leaders of the churches are encouraged to attend these events to build their understanding and skills and to meet future colleagues in ministry from across the denominational spectrum.

Special events provide diverse opportunities for learning and celebration hosted by the seminary, alone or in cooperation with other local associations and churches. Several endowed conferences enable the Center to bring internationally recognized scholars and some of the most exciting and challenging voices in the contemporary church to campus. Guests have included theologian Ellen Charry, educator and grief counselor Robert De Vries, and pastor and innovator in biblical formation and spiritual community, Randy Frazee.

Affiliated Ministries



*Sara Russell, manager of
The Bridge*



The Bridge

A few short blocks from Western's campus, Holland's downtown thrives with specialty shops and galleries that attract local shoppers as well as thousands of visitors annually. One of the shops, The Bridge, is an unusual type of "specialty" store—a developing-world store staffed entirely by volunteers. The



merchandise is purchased from cooperatives of artisans around the world who

depend upon their work for economic survival. Because The Bridge bypasses

expensive importers and operates with minimal overhead, it can offer reasonably priced handmade goods to shoppers and insure a fair return to the artisans who produce them. The Bridge is owned and operated by Western Theological Seminary.

The Community Kitchen

The Community Kitchen is sponsored by the Community Action House and Western Theological Seminary and operates out of the seminary Commons. The kitchen is staffed by volunteers from local churches and the seminary and feeds about 100 people five days a week year round. Lunchtime in the Commons is a time and place where people of all backgrounds, incomes, faiths, and social positions are welcome to nourish their bodies with food and their spirits with the companionship of others. Students are invited to volunteer their time, if possible, and to join others in this ministry that links Western with the community in which it resides.



Facilities and Resources

Classroom Resources and Beardslee Library

Western Seminary provides a learning environment designed to meet the special requirements of theological education. Special audiovisual resources, such as video- and audio-recording/playback, overhead and film projection, and sound amplification equipment, are available. All learning areas are handicapped accessible.

Western's new building addition provides state-of-the-art classrooms, conference rooms, and gathering areas. A teleconferencing classroom allows instruction to be offered at multiple sites around the country or even the world. In addition to the classrooms in the main building, seminar rooms are found on the second, third, and fifth floors of the Cook Center for Theological Research. Learning labs with video equipment, used in conjunction with small-group and counseling sessions, are found in the basement of the Cook Center.

The John Walter Beardslee Library, also housed in the Cook Center, is the seminary's center for access to information resources supporting student studies, faculty research, and area ministries. Beardslee Library's resources include more than 100,000 books and bound periodicals. Approximately 1,300 books are added to the collection each year. Current

periodical subscriptions number close to 400. Library users find information on the collection through an automated system shared with Hope College's Van Wylen Library. Beardslee Library and Van Wylen Library maintain reciprocal borrowing privileges and work cooperatively to develop strong collections for each institution. In addition, seminary students and faculty can request materials from libraries across North America through interlibrary loans. Students also have access to the vast information resources of the internet through terminals in the library.

Several special collections complement Beardslee Library's core of materials.



The Bast Preaching Resources Center provides a growing collection of sermons and homiletical instruction. An area on the library's fourth floor is devoted to church school curricula from a wide range of publishers. A large collection of photographic slides depicts archaeology, church history, church art, and architecture. The Kolkman Memorial Archive (housed at the Joint Archives of Holland in the Van Wylen Library) contains papers documenting the history of Western Theological Seminary and of the Reformed Church in West Michigan.

The Cook Center for Theological Research provides an excellent environment for study, offering study carrels, tables, lounge chairs, a seminar room, and computer access to the library's catalog on each floor. Audiovisual equipment and computer workstations are available for student use.

Beardslee Library is a member of the American Theological Library Association, the American Library Association, the Michigan Library Association, and the Michigan Library Consortium.

Bookstore and Coffee Shop

The bookstore's purpose is to provide ready, helpful access to books and materials that support and fulfill the seminary's mission. These include text-

books; materials supporting faculty and student research; materials to sustain the ongoing learning of pastors, church leaders, and laity; Bibles; music; and worship materials.

In a new location that also offers a coffee shop featuring “Fair Trade” coffees, the bookstore’s goal is to become the premier source in this area for Christian literature that is relevant to the needs of church members and leaders and that is biblically and theologically well-grounded.

Student Support Services

A student support team consisting of appointed representatives attends to the overall quality of life experienced by students. The team looks for ways Western can be more aware of and responsive to the needs of seminary members. Headed by the dean of students, the team coordinates academic support, organizes existing student support services, gathers information about student experiences at WTS, and proposes changes in policies and programs when needed. The team takes particular concern for assuring the care and support of international students and other students who may require specific attention.

Counseling

Western provides short-term personal and family counseling and referral services to full-time students and their spouses. Students taking fewer than three courses each term may use the counseling service as availability permits. Western also offers a variety of enrichment and group experiences to facilitate personal growth and wholeness among students.

Housing

Western Seminary offers on-campus townhouse apartments to its students. Apartments are available as single bedrooms, communally sharing kitchen and living rooms; or as one-, two-, or three-bedroom units. Handicapped accessible units are available. Many of Western’s students live in an on-campus townhouse complex, which is built around a central green and includes play space for children. These units are recently built, pleasant, economical, and adjacent to the classroom building. They are equipped with air-conditioning, dishwashers, and laundry facilities. The townhouses are an especially attractive option for families with young children and are within walking distance of an elementary school, parks, churches, and the downtown shopping district.



Students are advised to make their housing plans early, as space is limited and the seminary cannot guarantee housing to all students. Townhouses can be rented by contacting the business manager, who will also help locate housing in the greater Holland area for those who do not wish to live in seminary housing or if none is available (see “Housing,” p. 50, for details).

Faculty and Staff



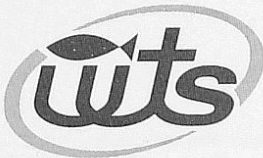
Faculty

Emeriti Faculty

Adjunct Faculty

Peer Group Facilitators

Administrative Staff



Faculty



"The Bible is more than just a collection of ancient stories about strange people in far-away lands. It is, in a very real sense, our story. Watching students come to that realization is one of the most exciting things about teaching the Bible."

Carol Bechtel

Professor of Old Testament

A.B. Hope College

M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Ph.D. Yale University

Before joining Western's faculty, Carol Bechtel taught at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia. She has also served as a teaching fellow at Yale Divinity School and as interim pastor of the Turn of River Presbyterian Church in Stamford, Connecticut. A musician herself, Dr. Bechtel finds that the great works of church music can open new windows on scripture for students both within and beyond the seminary, and she is the author of two such study guides: *Hallelujah! The Bible and Handel's Messiah* and *Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy: The Bible and Brahms's Requiem*. She has also written *Glimpses of Glory: Daily Reflections on the Bible* and a commentary on the book of Esther in the Interpretation series.

Courses:

- BF110 Biblical Hebrew
- BF111 Hebrew Translation and Interpretation
- BF514 Seminar in Psalms
- BF517 Wisdom Literature of the Bible
- BF520 Esther
- BF522 Old Testament Narratives
- BF614 Hebrew Reading
- CM124 Worship

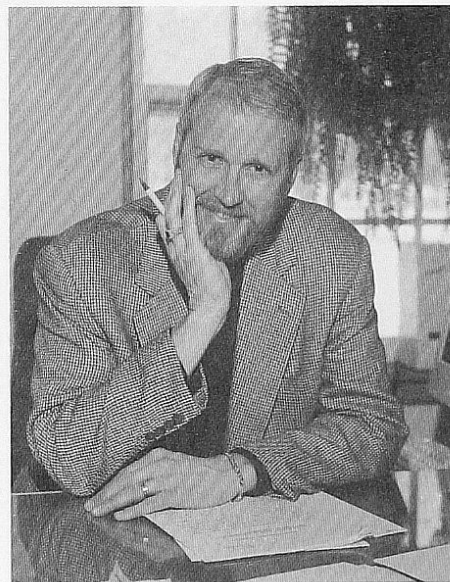
Thomas A. Boogaart

Professor of Old Testament
Director of Doctor of Ministry Program

A.B. Calvin College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
Ph.D. University of Groningen

Tom Boogaart has spent a lifetime immersed in the scriptures, as a student and teacher in the Netherlands and in England, and later at Central College in Iowa and at Western. The biblical vision he has gained has sent him deep into the issues facing Western Christians, and he sees, through Old Testament lenses, the clear opposition of Western cultural values to those of scripture. Dr. Boogaart works to help his students renew their own biblical vision; he has also worked to bring his to life by helping to initiate such ministries as The Bridge and the Community Kitchen (see p. 12) and Witness, an organization of support for women in church leadership.

Dr. Boogaart has extended his teaching ministry outward by leading many retreats and seminars and by teaching regularly in area churches. He is the author of two books and many articles in *Perspectives: a Journal of Reformed Thought* and *Western's Reformed Review*. Dr. Boogaart also directs Western's Doctor of Ministry degree program.

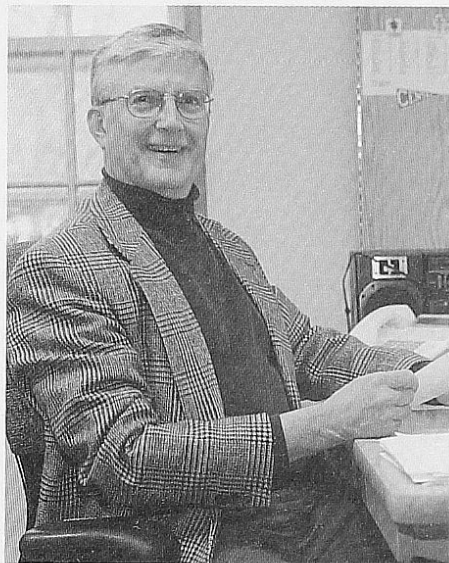


"I help students recover the sacred in the scriptures, that is, its power to bless them and energize their ministries. Together we explore the ways Western culture has silenced the scriptures, and together we listen again to its song of peace."

Courses:

- BF103/EM411 Old Testament Life and Witness
- BF513 Studies in Prophets
- BF522 Old Testament Narratives
- BF523 Old Testament Theology
- BF527 Literature of the Second Temple Period
- BF614 Hebrew Reading
- DM810 D.Min. Orientation Seminar
- EM514 Psalms, Prophets, and Social Ministries

Faculty



"Christian religious education is about more than schooling and classrooms. Worship, community, and service also form faith in adults, children, and youth. I am committed to equipping leaders for the church's teaching ministry who are as concerned about the transformation of persons in Christ as they are about the communication of the Christian tradition."

George Brown Jr.

Associate Dean

G. W. and Eddie Haworth Professor of Christian Education

Director of Master of Divinity Program

A.B. Central College

M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Th.M. Princeton Theological Seminary

Ph.D. Michigan State University

During more than twenty years as a Christian educator in the Reformed Church in America, George Brown has taught adults, children, and young people and pursued special interests in adult faith development and curriculum development. He represented the denomination on several ecumenical curriculum projects and served on the development team of the Reformed Church in America curriculum, *Heritage and Hope*. He also helped shape the denomination's Associates in Ministry certification program. Dr. Brown's book reviews appear widely, and he compiles a quarterly collection of reviews for church educators called *Readings*. An annotated bibliography of religious education literature, *Religious Education 1960-1993*, co-authored with Dr. D. Campbell Wyckoff, was published in 1995.

At Western Dr. Brown serves as Associate Dean, directs the M.Div. program, and teaches an annual summer seminar for entering Master of Religious Education candidates, as well as Christian education courses throughout the year.

Courses:

CM103 Seminar in Congregational Studies

CM121 Church Governance and Denominational Standards

CM122 Empowering Christian Education

CM123 Seminar on Teaching and Learning

CM450 RCA Polity

CM531/EM711 Curriculum Evaluation and Design

CM532/EM574 Equipping for Teaching and Leadership

CM621/EM722 Christian Education Ministry with Adults

EM410 Orientation Seminar: Christian Formation and Discipleship

EM441 Ministry Units I-V

EM510/CM690 History of the Theory and Praxis of Christian Formation

EM645 Transformational Learning with Adults

Timothy L. Brown
Henry Bast Professor of Preaching

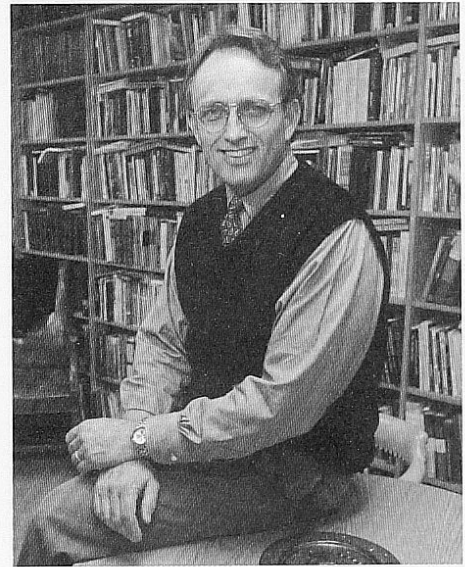
A.B. Hope College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
D.Min. Western Theological Seminary

Tim Brown brings to the task of teaching homiletics twenty years of preaching and pastoral experience, most recently in a joint position held with Hope College as the Hinga-Boersma Dean of the Chapel. While at Hope College he participated in a highly charged student spiritual renewal movement that gained national acclaim. Prior to coming to Western Theological Seminary Dr. Brown was the senior pastor of Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Michigan, from 1983 to 1995. During that time the church became one of the fastest growing congregations in the United States, as well as one of the largest in the Reformed Church in America.

Dr. Brown is a frequent speaker at pastors conferences, college campuses, and church renewal events. He has served on the Reformed Church in America's Board of Theological Education; the Hope College Board of Trustees; and the executive committee of Words of Hope, a worldwide radio ministry; and is currently a General Synod Professor. He writes often for the *Church Herald*, the *Reformed Review*, and *Perspectives* and is a frequent contributor to *Preaching Today*, a preaching resource of *Christianity Today*. He is also the author of *Witness Among Friends* and *Let's Preach Together*.

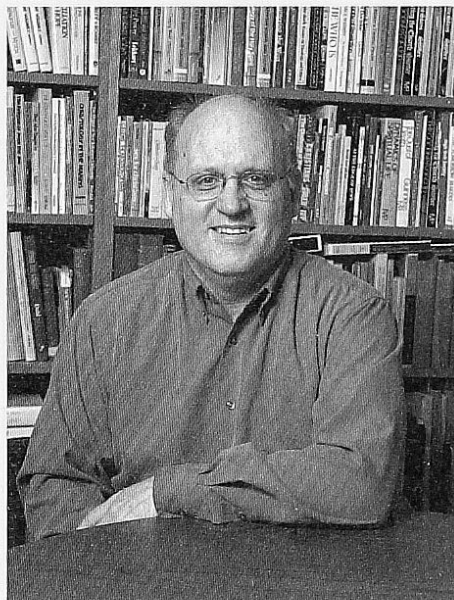
Courses:

- CM101 Introduction to Preaching
- CM451 RCA Worship
- CM555 Seeker-Sensitive Preaching
- CM557 Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible
- CM564 The Ministry of the Word and the Land and Culture of the Bible
- CM567 Spirituality for Preaching
- CM568 Preaching and Pain
- CM576 Called to Preach
- TF104 Introduction to Theology and Worship



"As a young man and a new convert in the late 1960s, I can still see the aging and ill Henry Bast ascending the pulpit to preach. I thrilled then, as I do now, to the gospel he preached. He spoke winsomely of the risen Christ, with the full authority of the Word of God. I've pledged myself to the task of raising up a new generation of preachers in the Reformed Church in America to do the same!"

Faculty



"I try to teach the New Testament in a way that helps students understand the gospel more deeply. That means understanding both the central message of Christian faith and the different ways in which that faith was lived out in the New Testament church. Understanding the unity and diversity of the New Testament is critical to understanding how Christians are to minister today."

James Victor Brownson

Academic Dean

James and Jean Cook Professor of New Testament

A.B. University of Michigan

M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Ph.D. Princeton Theological Seminary

What is the gospel, and how does it address and transform our lives? This is the question that has shaped Jim Brownson's academic and theological work. Jim's teaching and thinking tends to move between close and careful readings of the biblical text and wide-ranging exercises in theological imagination that bring the biblical text into conversation with life in the modern and postmodern world.

His passion is to equip students to understand the gospel both in its stunning simplicity and in its incredibly diverse applications to our lives. His scholarly and teaching interests include the Gospel of John, the Synoptic Gospels, biblical hermeneutics, contextual theology, and theology in service to the church. Dr. Brownson also serves Western as Academic Dean and has contributed significantly to recent revisions in Western's M.Div. curriculum.

He is deeply involved in service to the Reformed Church in America, both in theological scholarship and in theological education. He is a long-standing member of the Gospel and Our Culture Network and a contributor to its ongoing research and publication.

Dr. Brownson is the author of *Speaking the Truth in Love: New Testament Resources for a Missional Hermeneutic* and a co-author of *Stormfront*, forthcoming from Eerdmans. He often contributes to a variety of journals and magazines as well.

Courses:

BF102/EM412 New Testament Life and Witness

BF531 Seminar in the Synoptics

BF532 The Gospel According to John

BF535 Interpreting the Parables

BF613 Greek Reading

BF617 The Ordination of Women: Exploring Biblical Authority and Church Order

Steven Chase

Resident Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality

B.A. University of Washington
M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary
Ph.D. Fordham University

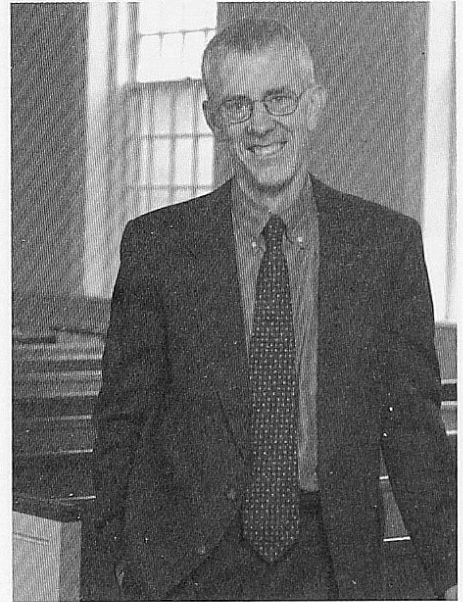
Steven Chase has a varied background in both academic and practical aspects of Christian spirituality. He served as full-time adjunct professor of Christian spirituality at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley and as a core doctoral faculty member of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. He taught Christian spirituality, Christian mysticism, historical theology, and theology in a variety of Roman Catholic and Reformed seminaries throughout the U.S. and in Canada and Korea. He has twice been a member-in-residence at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, New Jersey. He is the founder and current co-chair of the Christian Spirituality Group of the American Academy of Religion and a member of the governing board of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality.

Dr. Chase served as Director of Prayer Formation at the Institute of Spirituality at the Dominican Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and as a spiritual director on staff and in private practice.

He is the author of *Angelic Wisdom: The Cherubim and the Grace of Contemplation in Richard of St. Victor*; editor of *Doors of Understanding: Conversations in Global Spirituality*; and editor and translator of *Angelic Spirituality: Medieval Perspectives on the Ways of Angels* (a volume in Paulist's Classics of Western Spirituality series) and *Contemplation and Compassion: The Victorine Spiritual Tradition*.

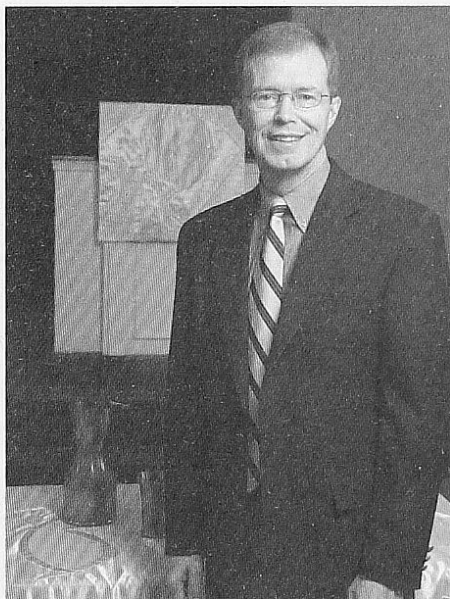
Courses:

- EM512 Christian Doctrine
- FM101 Retreat for Christian Formation (J-Term)
- TF549 Christian Prayer: Theology and Practice
- TF563 History of Christian Mysticism
- TF565 Spiritual Theology
- CM102 Seminar in Spiritual Formation
- CM580 Group Spiritual Direction
- MT220 Research Design



"Christian spirituality in the seminary setting is a field-encompassing field. As such it finds itself in close and intimate relation with other disciplines such as theology, biblical exegesis, preaching, church history, pastoral care, worship, church leadership, ethics, and spiritual formation and discipleship. Formation in Christian living is a lifelong process. Habits and disciplines acquired during seminary years serve as guides and markers for our spiritual journey as we move out from the seminary to become compelling witnesses to the transforming message of Jesus Christ. My vocation as a teacher of Christian spirituality is to aid students in discerning God's presence in all of God's good creation."

Faculty



"I am passionate about issues surrounding discipleship and faith maturity, calling and vocational discernment. That's why I'm delighted to serve as Dean of Students and Director of Formation for Ministry at Western—these issues are taken very seriously. We are all challenged to grow in grace in community. Our commitment to provide significant student support in a number of areas is one evidence of this. For many students the other significant community, their Teaching Church, engages them at yet another level and further assists in discerning call and growing deeper in their ministerial identity for a faithful and fruitful ministry."

Matthew Floding

Dean of Students

Director of Formation for Ministry

B.A. Bethel College

M.A. Wheaton College

M.Div. McCormick Theological Seminary

D.Min. Western Theological Seminary

Matt Floding brings twenty years of ministry experience to his position at Western Seminary. He has served as a youth pastor, pastor, and—in the ten years prior to coming to Western—as chaplain at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa.

Dr. Floding has also participated actively in the life of the Reformed Church in America as a member of the Student Care Committee and Pastoral Care Committee of Classis East Sioux and as Lenten Devotional Writer for Classis Holland. At General Synod he served as the worship coordinator in 1990 and was a member of the Cultivating Leaders Task Force in 1998. He currently serves on the Campus Ministries Team of the Synod of the Great Lakes.

Each year Dr. Floding travels to Khartoum, Sudan, to be a visiting teacher for the Khartoum Evangelical (Presbyterian) Church's pastors and Christian workers training conference.

Courses:

FM101 Retreat for Christian Formation (J-Term)

CM524 Introduction to Campus Ministry

CM577 Rural Church Ministries

EM471 Equipping for Spiritual Growth and Church Renewal

Jaco J. Hamman

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling

B.A. University of Port Elizabeth, South Africa

B.Th., M.Th. Stellenbosch University Seminary School, South Africa

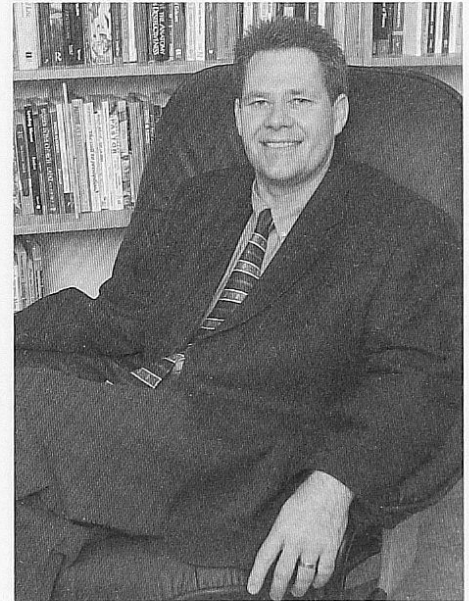
Ph.D. Princeton Theological Seminary

Born in South Africa, Jaco Hamman left his native country in 1993 to pursue further training in hospital chaplaincy with the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. After two CPE residencies, his interest in the emotional, relational, and spiritual experiences of people became the focus of a Ph.D. dissertation at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Dr. Hamman spent three years as a pastoral psychotherapist at the Blanton-Peale Graduate Institute—a training institute for the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, of which Dr. Hamman is a member. He has clinical experience as a marriage, family, and group therapist and served as a hospital chaplain for the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa. Jaco became an American citizen in December 2002.

Dr. Hamman has a special interest in assisting church leaders, congregations, and denominations in understanding their spiritual, emotional, and relational dynamics. He has served as a pastoral-theological consultant in the U.S. and South Africa. He is also an ordained pastor in the Reformed Church in America.

He has written for numerous journals and is currently writing a book on the grieving that churches and denominations experience when they undergo significant changes.



"Made in the image of God, we are relational beings. One can say that we are our relationships! Pastoral ministry occurs within and is determined by specific relationships, for it depends on the relational ties that empower its effectiveness: one's relationship's with one's self, with God, with others, and with nature. Furthermore, health, wholeness, and holiness are found in these relationships. I see my call as educating and empowering seminarians and clergy to redefine their core relationships so that they can support and guide individuals, families, and congregations to redefine their ways of being in the world."

Courses:

- CM113 Seminar on the Pastor as Person
- CM115 An Introduction to Counsel and Care
- CM170 Pastoral Theology
- CM522 Counseling Youth
- CM578 Wounded Healer
- DM810 Orientation Seminar

Faculty



George R. Hunsberger

Dean of the Center for the Continuing Education of the Church
Professor of Congregational Mission

B.A. Belhaven College
M.Div. Reformed Theological Seminary
Ph.D. Princeton Theological Seminary

"Churches in North America can no longer do business as usual, because the culture has changed. We must recover what it means to be a body of people sent on a mission. This requires leaders who know God, who teach with insight, who form genuine Christian community, and who can lead congregations into their mission."

George Hunsberger brings a rich variety of personal experience to the teaching of mission and to the leadership of the Center for the Continuing Education of the Church. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), he has been a campus staff member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship; a pastor; a missionary team leader for Africa Foundation in Nairobi, Kenya; and a teacher at Princeton Theological Seminary and at his alma mater, Belhaven College. He came to Western in 1989, where he continues his special interests in exploring how the gospel speaks within and across cultures and in fostering congregations in North America who are missionaries for the encounter of the gospel with Western culture.

Dr. Hunsberger is coordinator of the Gospel and Our Culture Network in North America, whose administrative home is in the Center, and he edits the network's newsletter. He is the author of *Bearing the Witness of the Spirit: Lesslie Newbigin's Theology of Cultural Plurality*, co-author of *Missional Church: A Theological Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*, and co-editor of *Christian Ethics in Ecumenical Context: Theology, Culture, and Politics in Dialogue* and *The Church Between Gospel and Culture*. He has also contributed many articles and reviews to missiological, Reformed, and Presbyterian journals.

Courses and Programs:

TF111/EM511 Missional Church
TF572 Readings in Newbigin
Journey Groups
Gospel and Our Culture Network
CONnECTS

Christopher B. Kaiser

Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology

A.B. Harvard University

Ph.D. in astrogeophysics, University of Colorado

M.Div. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

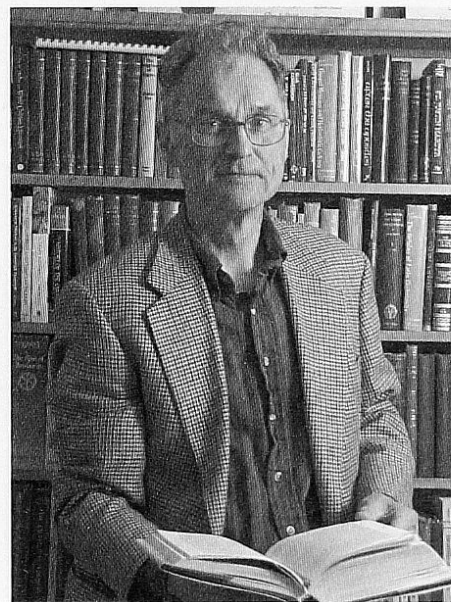
Ph.D. in Christian dogmatics and divinity, University of Edinburgh

Chris Kaiser began his professional life as a scientist and went on to become a theologian, and his teaching vocation has always included working to build bridges between his two disciplines. He has been part of Western's faculty since 1976. He has also served as lecturer at the University of Edinburgh and at Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and has been a resident member of the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, New Jersey. He is a frequent contributor to theological journals, and his 1991 book, *Creation and the History of Science*, was awarded a John Templeton Prize for Outstanding Books in Science and Religion. A second edition of his textbook on *The Doctrine of God* came out in 2001.

Dr. Kaiser has served on the Commission on Theology of the Reformed Church in America and is active in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Gospel and Our Culture Network.

Courses:

- TF100 The Church's Life and Witness (150-1536)
- TF113 Systematic Theology I
- TF512 Ministering to Science-Minded people
- TF530 Ante-Nicene Theologians
- TF531 Nicene and Post-Nicene Theologians
- TF532 Augustine of Hippo
- TF533 Early Reformers
- TF537 The Church in the Age of Reason
- DM830 D.Min. Project Seminar



"I look at the scientific and technological framework of our culture and ask what the meaning of Christian faith might be for people at work in that world. The question leads me to an interest in the history of how our cultural framework developed and what its relation is to Christian theology—especially the doctrines of God, creation, and the person and work of Jesus Christ."



"The church today finds itself situated within a time of great cultural transition. Engaging a diverse and complex culture meaningfully, compassionately, and courageously is one of the enormous and exciting challenges facing the church and all congregational leaders. My passion is to engage seminarians and congregational leaders in learning new ways of being the church and creating adaptive cultures that are both theologically rooted and culturally responsive. Fostering adaptive congregational cultures presents both challenge and great opportunity in the turbulent social context of the emerging twenty-first century."

Meri MacLeod

Associate Professor of Educational Leadership
Director of Distance Learning Master of Divinity Program

B.S. Bridgewater State College
M.R.E. Gordon-Conwell Seminary
Ph.D. in Educational Studies, Trinity International University

Meri MacLeod has served on the staff of three congregations: an urban/suburban transitional congregation and a large multi-staff suburban congregation of several thousand (both in the Boston area) and a new church plant in Phoenix. In each church Dr. MacLeod led the congregation into new ministries, instituted new programs, and created new leadership development practices. In addition, she has led university campus ministries on two state universities and expanded their outreach to include graduate and international student groups. She pioneered a new collaborative-style partnership ministry between congregations and a national parachurch organization, providing new ministry resources, consulting, and leadership development. The congregational training and resources were developed out of a national research study she designed and conducted while pursuing her doctorate. She has published an interactive Bible study series designed for a postmodern culture and is a co-author of a discipleship handbook. She is a frequent speaker and trainer and serves on the board and executive committee of Presbyterians for Renewal. Meri has been an assistant professor at Fuller Theological Seminary and the dean of an adult education program in a Christian university and is currently special doctoral faculty at Colorado State University, where she is mentoring a Ph.D. candidate in qualitative research.

In addition to overseeing the Master of Divinity distance learning program at Western, Dr. MacLeod teaches in the area of congregational change and postmodern culture.

Courses:

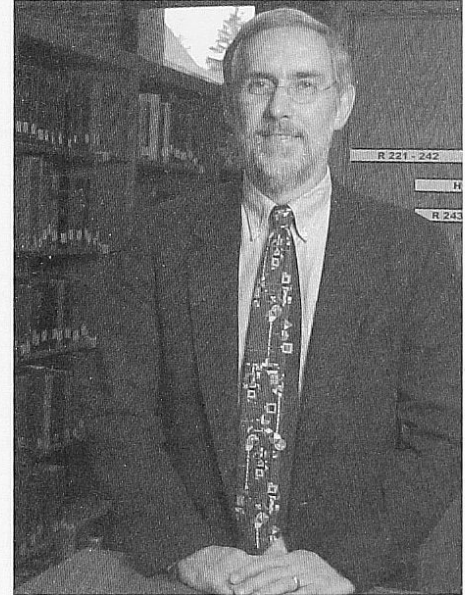
CM523 Leading Change in Ministries and Congregations
CM525 Ministry in a Postmodern World

Paul M. Smith

Director of Beardslee Library
Associate Professor of Theological Bibliography
Director of Information Resources and Technology

A.B. Hope College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
Th.M. University of Toronto; Victoria University
M.A. University of Iowa

During his tenure as director of Beardslee Library, Paul Smith has witnessed a gradual revolution of the role of the library in theological education, driven by waves of new technology. He has led Western into familiarity with the new tools of the computer age while fostering an awareness of their theological implications. Rev. Smith also leads Western's intercultural immersion experiences in Central America.

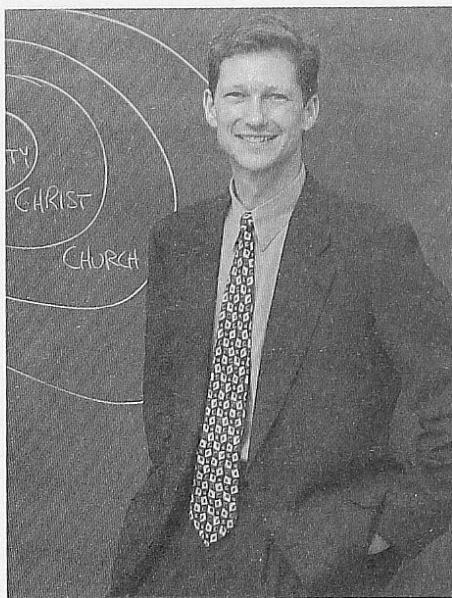


"Theological education today occurs in what some have called 'the culture of the screen.' The electronic communications media have drastically changed the ways in which we intersect with and learn about our world. As director of Beardslee Library I seek to acquire and make available a variety of media—books, journals, computer programs, internet connections—that will enhance our efforts to train leaders for the church. I also attempt to help students reflect theologically upon the effect computers have in our lives."

Courses:

DM820 Candidate Seminar
TF555 Theology and Ministry in the Computer Age

Faculty



"Christian ethics and theology are about making connections—connections between the patterns of God's activity, the shape of our living, and the patterns of our thinking. What a privilege it is to help students at Western better discern those connections. Students must develop such discernment as they prepare to lead the people of God further into ways reflective of our glorious and crucified God—and as they learn to protest and strive against ways within our church and society that are not."

David L. Stubbs

Assistant Professor of Ethics and Theology

B.S. Stanford University

M.S. Stanford University

M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary

Ph.D. Duke University

A central interest of David Stubbs's scholarly work is the impact that different philosophies and cultures have had on the church's theological and ethical imagination. That interest finds particular focus in his continued work on the concept of participation in Christ and sanctification in the modern Reformed tradition.

His interest in theology and ethics has not been purely academic, however. David has worked in college ministries and worship leadership for many years, served as a construction manager for Habitat for Humanity, taught English in China, and participated in and led several mission service projects in the U.S., Argentina, and Mexico.

Dr. Stubbs is currently working on a project on theology, ethics, and worship. He has published and presented in areas such as narrative theology and ethics, the theological ethics of Karl Barth, Eastern Orthodoxy, and the impact of Anglo-American postmodernism on ethics.

Courses:

- TF104 Introduction to Theology and Worship
- TF121 Christian Ethics
- TF525 Reformed Theologies: Calvin Edwards, Schleiermacher, and Barth
- TF545 Ecclesiology, Politics, and Economics
- TF546 War and Peace
- MT240 Seminar in Theology and Its Contexts

Leanne Van Dyk

Dean of Faculty
Professor of Reformed Theology

B.A. Calvin College
M.A. Western Michigan University
M.Div. Calvin Theological Seminary
Ph.D. Princeton Theological Seminary

Leanne Van Dyk combines her love of teaching with a passion for the work of theology and a conviction that the teaching theologian must always keep in mind the present needs of the church. Her years in San Francisco, where she served on the faculty of San Francisco Theological Seminary, sharpened her focus on the issues of cultural diversity that face the church today. She brings to Western an excitement for the rich resources within the Reformed tradition for speaking theologically across cultural and religious boundaries.

Dr. Van Dyk has also served as a member of the core doctoral faculty at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California; as a member-in-residence at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, New Jersey; as a member of the Wabash Center's Consultation on Theological Education; and on the Catechism Committee of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She is the author of *The Desire of Divine Love: The Atonement Theology of John McLeod Campbell* and serves on the editorial boards of *Perspectives*, the *Journal of Reformed Thought*, the *Banner*, and the *Scottish Journal of Theology*.



"Theology is articulating the faith of the church for each new age. When it is grounded in scripture, responsive to the needs of the church, and open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, it fulfills its task as a servant of the church. My own call to ministry is to help students see the great beauty, drama, and strength of the gospel—and then, how to express the gospel for the church today."

Courses:

- TF114 Systematic Theology II
- TF518 Barth's Doctrine of Reconciliation
- TF519 Uniqueness of Christ
- TF523 Doctrine of the Atonement



Robert E. Van Voorst

Professor of New Testament

B.A. Hope College

M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

S.T.M., Ph.D. Union Theological Seminary, New York City

Ordained in the RCA, Bob Van Voorst served for twelve years as the pastor of Rochester Reformed Church in Accord, New York, while he pursued doctoral study. In 1989 he became a professor of religion at Lycoming College, a United Methodist liberal-arts college and served for three years as chair of its religion department. While teaching college, he was an interim pastor in four Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations, preached widely in north-central Pennsylvania, and was a visiting professor in Westminster College in Oxford, England.

At Western, Dr. Van Voorst teaches courses in New Testament language and literature, world religions, and Christianity and popular culture. He serves as the editor of the *Reformed Review*, Western's theological journal, and maintains an active schedule of preaching and lecturing in Michigan and nationally. He has written frequently on theology and ministry in the *Reformed Review* and the *Church Herald*. He has also authored six books, including the textbooks *Building Your New Testament Greek Vocabulary* (third edition); *Readings in Christianity* (second edition); *Anthology of World Scriptures* (fourth edition), and *Anthology of Asian Scriptures*. *The Ascents of James* is a recovery and commentary on a second-century Jewish-Christian text; *Jesus Outside the New Testament* examines traditions about Jesus from pagan, Jewish, and Christian documents before and after the New Testament. Dr. Van Voorst has been named in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World* for his contribution to theological education and Christian ministry.

Courses:

- BF100 New Testament Greek
- BF101 New Testament Translation and Interpretation
- BF530 Letter to the Romans
- BF533 Gospel According to Mark
- BF534 Acts of the Apostles
- BF613 Greek Reading
- TF631 Christianity and Popular Culture
- TF632 Christianity and World Religions

"The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ witnessed by the New Testament is the foundation of the Christian faith. The health of the church in every age, and the effectiveness of its ministers, is directly related to how well it builds on this biblical foundation in interpretation, teaching, and preaching. Teaching the New Testament to Western students preparing for various ministries is a high calling and a stimulating, rewarding experience."

Dennis N. Voskuil

President

Professor of Church History

B.A. University of Wisconsin, Madison

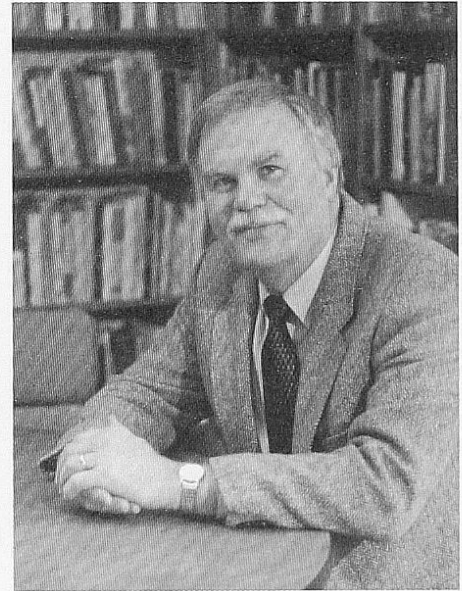
B.D. Western Theological Seminary

Ph.D. Harvard University

Dennis Voskuil came to Western as president in 1994 after serving as a teacher, pastor, and student of church history. He was a professor of religion at Hope College before coming to Western and has also served as pastor of several churches. He has served on the Reformed Church in America's Commission on History and Commission on Theology, and as chair of its Ad Hoc Committee on Ecclesiastical Office and Ministry.

Dr. Voskuil's recent publications have included essays for several books on religion in Americana and articles in the *Reformed Review*, *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, and the *Church Herald*. He is also the author of *Mountains into Gold Mines: Robert Schuller and the Gospel of Success*.

Areas of special interest for teaching and scholarship include American religious history, the Reformation, American religious thought, the Reformed Church in America history and missions, and Christian leadership.



"If we are to effectively communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ, we must be keenly aware of the contours of our culture. As we study the history of the church, we learn how the gospel became rooted in particular cultures. This is why I find church history so relevant and exciting."

Courses:

TF101/EM501 The Church's Life and Witness (1536-present)

TF621 Apologetics in Post-Christian Culture

TF633 Made in America: A Study of Indigenous Sects and Cults

CM120 Leading Christian Communities

Emeriti and Adjunct Faculty

Emeriti Faculty

Donald J. Bruggink

James A. H. Cornell Professor of Historical
Theology

B.A. Central College

B.D. Western Theological Seminary

Ph.D. University of Edinburgh

James I. Cook

Anton Biemolt Professor of New Testament

A.B. Hope College

M.A. Michigan State University

B.D. Western Theological Seminary

Th.D. Princeton Theological Seminary

Robert A. Coughenour

Cornelius Van der Meulen Professor of Old
Testament

B.S. Indiana University of Pennsylvania

B.D. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

M.A. Western Reserve University

Ph.D. Case-Western Reserve University

I. John Hesselink

Albertus C. Van Raalte Professor of
Systematic Theology

B.A. Central College

B.D. Western Theological Seminary

Dr. Theol. Basel University

L.H.D. Hope College

D.D. Central College

M. Eugene Osterhaven

Albertus C. Van Raalte Professor of
Systematic Theology

A.B. Hope College

B.D. Western Theological Seminary

Th.D. Princeton Theological Seminary

D.D. Hope College

L.H.D. Northwestern College

Richard C. Oudersluys

Professor of New Testament

A.B. Calvin College

Th.B. Western Theological Seminary

D.D. Hope College

Sonja M. Stewart

Professor of Christian Education

B.A. Muskingum College

M.R.E. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Ph.D. University of Notre Dame

Adjunct Faculty

Curtis Birkey

Advanced pastoral counseling

B.A. Goshen College

M.A. Associated Mennonite Biblical
Seminaries

M.S.W. Western Michigan University

D.S.W. candidate, Loyola University of
Chicago

Dawn Boelkins

Biblical languages

B.A. Michigan State University

M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Steven C. Bouma-Prediger

Christian ethics

A.B. Hope College

M.Phil. Institute for Christian Studies

M.Div. Fuller Theological Seminary

Ph.D. University of Chicago

William C. Brownson

Evangelism and discipleship

B.A. Davidson College

B.D. Columbia Theological Seminary

Th.D. Princeton Theological Seminary

Ken Eriks

Minister of Preaching and Congregational
Leadership, Fellowship Reformed Church
Holland, Michigan

B.A. Hope College

M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

D.Min. Princeton Theological Seminary

Wendell Karsen

Master of Theology program director

B.S. Wheaton College

B.D. Fuller Theological Seminary

Th.M. Western Theological Seminary

Vicky Menning

Partnership for Church Revitalization,
Center for the Continuing Education of
the Church, Western Theological Seminary

B.A. Hope College

M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Jeff Munroe

Christian ministry with youth

B.A. Michigan State University

M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Donald M. Topp

Pastoral care and counseling

B.A. California State University
Sacramento

M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Psy.D. Rutgers University Graduate
School of Applied and Professional
Psychology

Peer Group Facilitators

Peer Group Facilitators

Jim Baar

Minister of Congregational Life and
Mission, Fellowship Reformed Church
Holland, Michigan
B.D. Central College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Norm Bendroth

Interim Pastor
St. John's United Church of Christ
Grand Rapids, Michigan
B.S. University of New Hampshire
M.Div. Trinity Evangelical Divinity
School
D.Min. Andover Newton Theological
School

Leigh Boelkins Van Kempen

Director of Pastoral Care—Resthaven Care
Community
Holland, Michigan
B.A. Hope College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Celaine Bouma-Prediger

Pastoral Counselor
B.A. Hope College
M.Div. Fuller Seminary

Jonathan Brownson

Pastor, Hamilton Reformed Church
Hamilton, Michigan
B.A. University of Michigan
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
Th.M. Lutheran School of Theology in
Chicago
D.Min. Western Theological Seminary

Curt Bush

Specialized Ministry
B.A. Hope College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Elizabeth DeJonge

Co-pastor Crosswinds Community Church
Saugatuck, Michigan
B.A. Hope College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Keith A. Derrick

Associate Pastor, Maplewood Reformed
Church
Holland, Michigan
B.A. Hope College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
M.R.E. Western Theological Seminary

Dan Edgerly

Pastor of Youth and Education
Calvary Reformed Church
Holland, Michigan
B.A. Michigan State University
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Ken Eriks

Minister of Preaching and Congregational
Leadership, Fellowship Reformed Church
Holland, Michigan
B.A. Hope College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
D.Min. Princeton Theological Seminary

Andy Fierro

Pastor, Crossroads Chapel
Holland, Michigan
B.A. Hope College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Marcia Floding

Director of Children's Ministries
Third Reformed Church
Holland, Michigan
B.A. Bethel College

Daniel Gillett

Minister of Preaching and Administration
First Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan
B.M. Western Michigan University
M.A. Western Michigan University
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

Scott Lokers

Senior Pastor, Overisel Reformed Church
Hamilton, Michigan
B.A. Hope College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary
D.Min. Candidate, Western Theological
Seminary

Vicky Menning

Partner, Aquinas College Community
Leadership Institute
Grand Rapids, Michigan
B.A. Hope College
M.Div. Western Theological Seminary

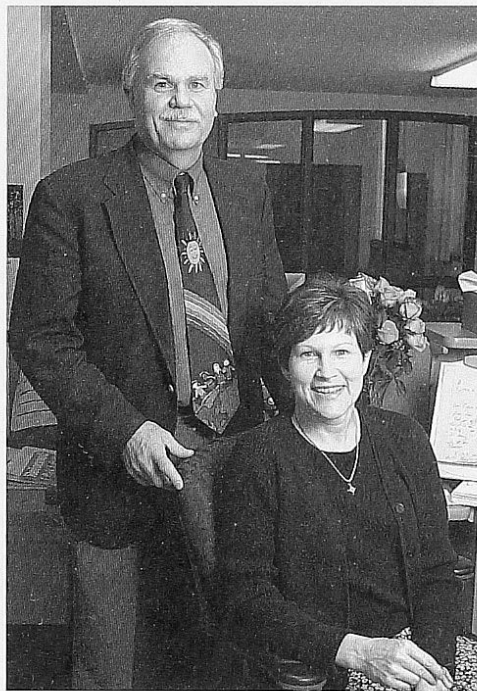
Marilyn Norman

Assistant Chaplain, Holland Community
Hospital, Holland, Michigan
B.A. Hope College
M.R.E. Western Theological Seminary

Loretta Smith

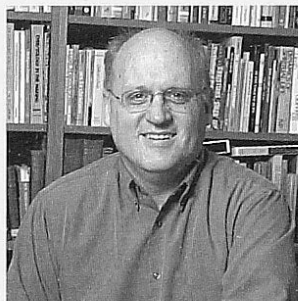
Home Maintenance Educator, Good
Samaritan Ministries
Holland, Michigan
B.S. Northwestern College
M.A. Western Michigan University
M.R.E. Western Theological Seminary

Administrative Staff

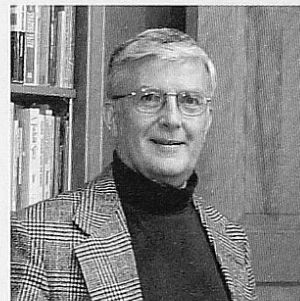


Dennis Voskuil, *president*
Rayetta Perez, *administrative assistant to the president*

Academic Affairs



James V. Brownson,
academic dean



George Brown Jr., *associate dean and director of the Master of Divinity program*



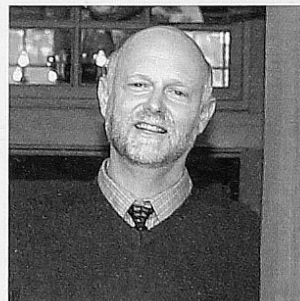
Leanne Van Dyk,
dean of faculty



Matt Floding,
dean of students



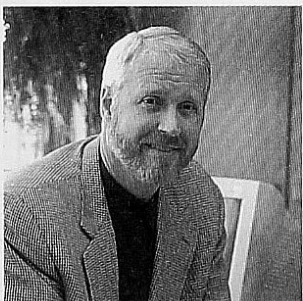
Pat Dykhuis, *registrar and administrative assistant to the dean*



Mark Poppen,
director of admissions



Wendell Karsen, *director of the Master of Theology program*



Tom Boogaart, *director of the Doctor of Ministry program*



Meri MacLeod, *director of the distance learning Master of Divinity program*



Administrative Support to Faculty and Student Services

Sally Vis, *administrative assistant to the in-residence programs*

Mary Huisman, *distance learning student services coordinator*

seated: Beth Smith, *administrative assistant to the in-residence programs*



Business Office

Richard Mersman, *information technology specialist*

Mary De Blaay, *accountant*

Holli Rook, *receptionist and accounts payable*

seated: Norman Donkersloot, *business manager*

Myra Bonzelaar, *receptionist and secretarial assistant (not pictured)*



Bookstore and Coffee Shop

Pat Dykhuis, *manager*

Becki Sweetman, *assistant manager*



Office of Advancement and Communications
seated: Laura De Vries, *associate director of advancement*
 Kenneth Neevel, *director of advancement and communications*
 Carla Plumert Weese, *communications coordinator*
standing: LuAnne Van Slooten, *administrative assistant for*
advancement and communications
 Vernon Hoffman, *assistant to the president for advancement*
 C. Bruce Wierks, *associate director of advancement*
 Jacalyn Soper, *office assistant*

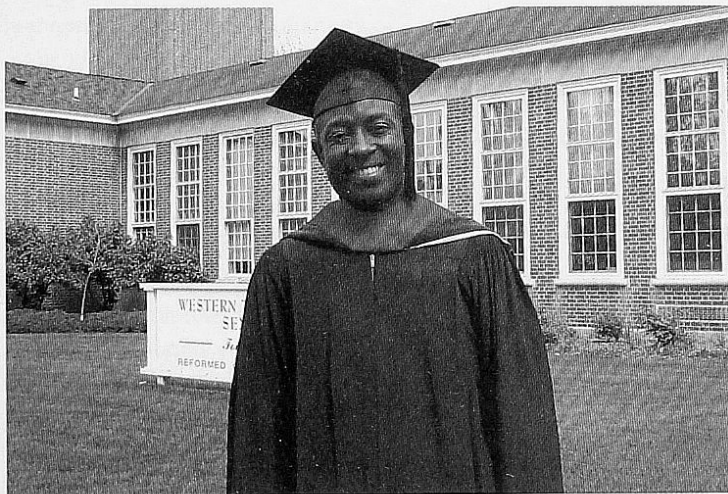


Beardslee Library
 Paul M. Smith, *director*
 Ann E. Nieuwkoop, *associate director*
 Emily Taylor, *cataloging technician*
 Brenda Hughes, *serials and acquisition technician*



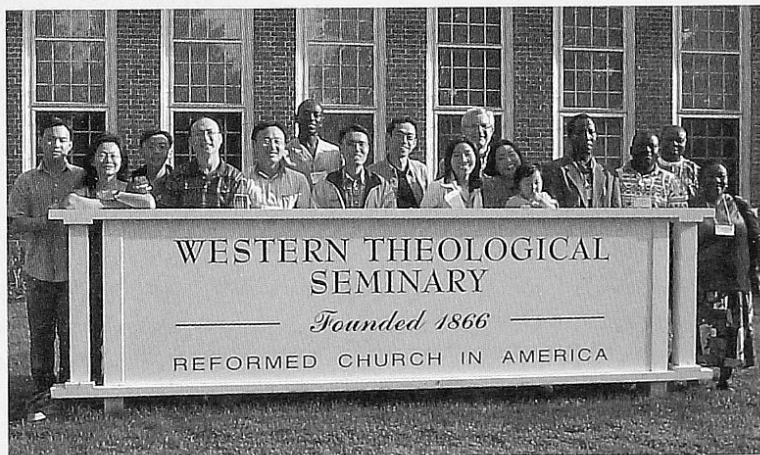
Bill Van Auken, *superintendent of*
building and grounds

Degree Programs



Master of Divinity
Distance Learning
Master of Divinity
Doctor of Ministry
Master of Theology
Master of Religious Education

Non-Degree-Seeking
Students
Other Programs



Western Theological Seminary offers programs leading to four degrees:

In-Residence Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Distance Learning Master of Divinity (M.Div. under development)

Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.)

Master of Theology (Th.M.)

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

The Master of Divinity degree prepares students for ordained ministry, and the Master of Religious Education degree leads to professional education and youth ministries. These programs also provide foundational training for ministries in such areas as mission, evangelism, education, counseling, social service, chaplaincy, and theological research.

The Master of Theology degree program is a one-year program of graduate academic study beyond the M.Div. The Doctor of Ministry program provides advanced study for ministry professionals.

All of Western's degree programs seek to impart a theological wisdom grounded in scripture, informed by the history of the church and its doctrines, and engaged with our contemporary world. The professional programs also provide opportunities to deepen this wisdom through the actual practice of ministry.

Western offers classes on a traditional daytime schedule, on a one-day weekly schedule, and in the evening. All required M.Div. courses are offered either at night or in a three-hour Thursday block at least once every four years. Western's distance learning M.Div., still under development, offers a program that combines short-term intensives on campus with distributed learning in the student's own context.

Master of Divinity

Director – George Brown Jr., Ph.D.

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) is the degree program that ordinarily leads to the ordained ministry. It requires a minimum of three years of full-time study to complete the degree. The applicant usually must have completed a Bachelor of Arts degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university. Western currently offers this degree on-campus in Holland, Michigan, and is developing the same degree program in a distance learning format.

A Suggested Guide for College Students

College students interested in pursuing theological education should seek a balanced undergraduate liberal arts program. The liberal arts equip the college graduate with foundational knowledge for theological studies. Following is a suggested guide:

ENGLISH—literature, composition, and related studies. At least four semesters.
SPEECH—at least two semesters.
HISTORY—ancient, modern European, and American. At least three semesters.
PHILOSOPHY—orientation in history, content, and method. At least three semesters.
SOCIAL SCIENCE—psychology, sociology or cultural anthropology, economics,

political science, and education. At least six semesters, including a minimum of two semesters of psychology.
FOREIGN LANGUAGES—four semesters of Greek, including two of New Testament Greek. A modern European language such as German or French is also desirable.

RELIGION—several courses in the study of Christian and non-Christian religions.

Minimum Undergraduate Requirements

The admissions committee is guided by the following criteria in determining the minimum liberal arts content of a bachelor's degree or its equivalent for an applicant to Western's M.Div. program:

- two semesters of world civilization or world history;
- one semester of English composition or two advanced English courses with substantial writing requirements;
- one semester of English literature;
- one semester of philosophy;
- one semester of psychology;
- one semester of sociology or cultural anthropology.

Requirements for the Degree

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree requires 96 semester credit hours.

All M.Div. candidates are required to take introductory courses in the Biblical, Theological, and Christian Ministry Fields, as well as Formation for Ministry courses. In addition to the required courses, students choose elective courses in areas of their own interest.

M. Div. orientation is held each year during the week prior to the beginning of the first semester and is a required component of the program. During orientation, students are introduced to the M.Div. curriculum and receive information crucial to seminary life. They are assigned to peer groups and ministry settings (also known as their "Teaching Church"). Through worship, conversation, and spiritual autobiography, they begin to form a community of faith and learning. Early in their first year they also undergo evaluation of their capacities and competencies to provide a baseline for future growth and to help each person set individual learning goals.

Formation for Ministry

Director – Matthew Floding, D.Min.

Formation for Ministry is the dimension of the M.Div. program that provides a place where knowledge gained through academic study can be integrated with experience in day-to-day ministry. It helps M.Div. candidates form pastoral identities, develop and practice ministry skills, and

Master of Divinity

cultivate discernment through an intercultural experience in ministry. Formation for Ministry features several components: ministry setting, mentors, site teams, peer groups, a Christian formation retreat, and an intercultural immersion.

Formation for Ministry Requirements

Students register separately for four 100-hour part-time units and one 400-hour full-time unit of a supervised in-ministry experience. Students select five ministry categories from the list below and complete a Learning Covenant for each of the categories selected.

The ministry of education

The ministry of pastoral care

The ministry of preaching and worship

The ministry of leadership and administration

The ministry of social justice

The ministry of evangelism

The ministry of hospitality

A ministry-setting mentor guides the student in selecting appropriate learning goals and strategies. The student and mentor design the Learning Covenants to explore the five chosen ministry categories in an order and manner that fit the context and learning needs of the student. The order in which they are pursued does not need to correspond to the order of courses

delivered in the formal curriculum.

Each Learning Covenant must be approved by the teaching church mentor and a theological field education faculty member of the seminary.

The Learning Covenants focus the learning through an action/reflection model. Action or “doing” refers to the practice of ministry in the supervised ministry settings. Reflection comes after the action by processing feedback from professors, other students, and one’s ministry mentor. In action-reflection, action comes first and then “theory” is distilled from it through critical reflection.

Procedures Leading to Ordination

Each denomination has its own procedures for enrolling, supervising, and examining candidates for ordination. M.Div. candidates should check with their pastors or denominational officers regarding specific instructions for ordination in their particular denominations.



An M.Div. candidate seeking ordination in the Reformed Church in America must apply to his or her classis through the home church consistory for a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry. This certificate and the M.Div. degree are required for ordination in the Reformed Church in America. Western’s faculty reviews M.Div. candidates annually and recommends to the board of trustees that it grants the certificate to those candidates who are deemed “fit for ministry.”

Western Seminary works in a close partnership with other denominational boards and candidate committees responsible for the formation of men and women for ordained ministry.

WTS Curriculum

M.Div. program

Year One: Formation for Church Leadership

| Semester One | J-Term | Semester Two |
|---|---|---|
| BF100 New Testament Greek (3) BF102 New Testament Life and Witness (3) TF100 The Church's Life and Witness (150-1536) (3) TF104 Introduction to Theology and Worship (3) CM103 Seminar in Congregational Studies (1.5) FM115 Practice of Christian Ministry (1) | FM101 Retreat for Christian Formation (2) | BF101 New Testament Translation and Interpretation (3) BF103 Old Testament Life and Witness (3) TF101 The Church's Life and Witness (1536-present) (3) CM101 Introduction to Preaching (3) CM102 Seminar in Spiritual Formation (1.5) FM115 Practice of Christian Ministry (1) |

Year Two: Cultivating a Vision for Church Leadership

| Semester One | J-Term | Semester Two |
|--|--|---|
| BF110 Biblical Hebrew (3) TF111 Missional Church (3) TF113 Systematic Theology I (3) CM112 Seminar on Communicating the Gospel (2) FM115 Practice of Christian Ministry (1) Elective (3) | FM111 Intercultural Immersion Experience (2) | BF111 Hebrew Translation and Interpretation (3) TF114 Systematic Theology II (3) CM115 Introduction to Counseling and Care (3) CM113 Seminar on the Pastor as Person (2) FM115 Practice of Christian Ministry (1) Elective (3) |

FM125 Advanced Practice of Christian Ministry (Internship) 400 hours full-time (2 credits)

Year Three: Acquiring Skills for Church Leadership

| Semester One | J-Term | Semester Two |
|--|---|---|
| TF121 Christian Ethics (3) CM122 Empowering Christian Education (3) CM123 Seminar on Teaching and Learning (1.5) Upper Level Biblical Field Requirement (3) Elective (3) | CM121 Church Governance and Denominational Standards | CM124 Worship (1.5) CM120 Leading Christian Communities (3) TF124 Credo (1.5) Upper Level Biblical Field Requirement (3) Elective (3) Elective (1.5) |

FM126 Launching Your Ministry (year-long) (2 credits)

Distance Learning Master of Divinity



Mary Huisman, student services coordinator and Meri MacLeod, director

Director – Meri MacLeod, Ph.D.

Western Theological Seminary is currently developing a form of its M.Div. degree program that will be offered through a combination of on-campus intensives and distance learning. The curricular requirements for this program will be almost entirely identical to the in-resi-

dence M.Div. degree program, although the structure and sequence of some courses may vary. The Association of Theological Schools, Western's accrediting body, has established a process for the approval of distance learning M.Div. degree courses and programs. Western Seminary is still in this process, and we anticipate full approval of the program before the first students will graduate. Current information on the emerging design of this program is available from the seminary.

Candidates complete this degree program in five years. The curriculum is structured in three semesters each year for five years. Two of the three semesters each year require a two-week on-campus intensive. The rest of the academic work is completed online. The program is carefully structured and requires regular and consistent participation.

- Each winter semester includes a January intensive.
- The spring/summer semester includes a May intensive.
- The fall semester features a course conducted entirely online.
- Students admitted into the program travel to Western Seminary's campus for the intensives, where they interact directly with peers and faculty.

- All students receive practical ministry experience and mentoring within a congregation in their area.

Applicants are required to meet the same admissions standards as required for the in-residence program. For further questions, contact the director of admissions, the Rev. Mark Poppen, at 1-800-392-8554.

Technological Requirements

Each student is required to provide his or her own computer with the following minimum standards:

- 300 MHz Intel Pentium III processor or greater, 128MB of RAM
- Full duplex sound card and speakers
- 65,000 color video display card set to display at 1024x768 or higher (video)
- Windows98SE or above, Windows 2000, Windows ME, Windows NT 4.0 with Service Pack 4 or later, Windows XP
- A connection to the internet through a local internet service provider. If connected via modem, a minimum 56K connection is strongly encouraged. The local internet service provider will furnish an email account to use during participation in the program. All connection charges are the student's responsibility.

- A web browser (Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher). The browser must be enabled to receive cookies.
- Microsoft Word 2000 software
- Software capable of playing streaming audio and video files (such as Windows Media Player 6.0, RealPlayer 8)
- A CD-ROM drive (minimum 6x speed)
- Updated virus protection

During the on-campus intensive periods, some computers are available for student use in the Cook Center, the student lounge, and the Distance Learning lab. These computers are PCs with Windows-based software (currently Microsoft Word is provided for word processing and Microsoft Internet Explorer for accessing the internet). Please contact Paul Smith, Information Resources and Technology Director, with any questions.



On-Campus Intensives

Winter semester courses require a two-week on-campus component, scheduled for the first two full weeks of January each year. The spring semester also requires a two week on-campus component, scheduled for the last week in May and the first week in June most years.

The Distance Learning office will arrange for housing in the Holland area if students do not have their own arrangements. Western Seminary provides transportation from the airport and to and from housing. A light breakfast is provided Monday through Friday at the seminary. The estimated cost for recommended shared housing with lunch and dinner meals at Hope College is \$560 for each two-week on-campus component.

Lodging and travel to Holland, Michigan, are not included in the cost of the program and are the responsibility of the student.

Academic Schedule

Winter Semester 2003

November 10, 2003 - March 12, 2004
(includes 1-week Thanksgiving and 2-week Christmas break, plus an Intensive, January 4-16, 2004)

Summer Semester 2004

April 19 - July 30, 2004
(includes an Intensive, May 24 - June 5, 2004)

Fall Semester 2004

August 30 - October 29, 2004

Winter Semester 2004

November 8, 2004 - March 11, 2005
(includes 1-week Thanksgiving and 2-week Christmas break, plus an Intensive, January 2-14, 2005)

Summer Semester 2005

April 18 - July 29, 2005
(includes an Intensive, May 23 - June 3, 2005)

Doctor of Ministry

Director – Thomas A. Boogaart, Ph.D.

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree program is offered to those who hold the Master of Divinity degree and who are currently engaged in ministry within the church (two years of ministry experience is required).

WTS has designed the D.Min. program to enhance the practice of ministry. The program encourages students: 1) to grow in their understanding of how God has called and formed them; 2) to integrate insights from the various scientific,

social scientific, and theological disciplines into their ministry; 3) to discern the religious and cultural traditions of their life and ministry; 4) to increase their skill in ministry; 5) to grow in their capacity to work with others; and 6) to make a significant contribution to the practice of ministry. The successful design and completion of the student's major project in the third year will demonstrate that the student has met these six goals.

The program emphasizes self-designed learning and consultation.

Students have the flexibility to shape their program around their particular needs while working in collaboration with their peers and supervisor. The self-designed learning challenges growth at four levels simultaneously: who students are as persons (emotional and psychological formation), who they are as children of God (spiritual and ecclesial formation), what they do (skills formation), and what they know (intellectual formation). The D.Min. program at Western is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

WTS Curriculum D. Min. program

| Preparation | Year One | Year Two | Year Three |
|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statement of Focus• Spiritual Autobiography | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First-Year Seminar (3 weeks)• One elective course onsite or online at an accredited school• Learning Units I and II | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second-Year Seminar (3 weeks)• One elective course• Learning Units III and IV | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Seminar (2 weeks)• Project• Examination |

Master of Theology

Director – Wendell Karsen, Th.M.

The Master of Theology (Th.M.) program assembles a community of international scholars who pursue advanced study to enhance their ministries. By design, the twelve-month (25 semester credit-hours) program provides for focused research and reflection within the context of cross-cultural dialogue.

Research is done within three areas: Ministry and Mission focuses on missiology, evangelism, preaching, education, and the practical application of Christian faith and discipleship. Theology in Context encompasses historical theology, systematic theology, and theological reflection

within specific historical/cultural settings. Biblical Theology embraces Old and New Testament studies, hermeneutics, and the use of biblical resources for theological and missiological reflection.

International and North American applicants must have completed an M.Div. degree or the equivalent, normally have three years of practical experience in ministry, and have the ability to relate theological study to the social, cultural, and historical contexts of their ministries.

Core requirements include an orientation seminar held each year in August (1.5 semester credit-hours), one seminar in contextual analysis (1.5 hours), one semi-

nar in contextual theology (1.5 hours), one seminar in research design (1 hour), one seminar in intercultural hermeneutics (1.5 hours), and completion of a master's thesis (6 hours).

Candidates are required to take a Focus Area Preliminary Examination that includes a two-hour written examination and a 45-minute oral examination (3 credit hours).

The remaining nine hours of course work are taken in the candidate's chosen focus area, in consultation with his or her advisor and the Th.M. director. These courses are chosen from among the upper level courses in the M.Div. or M.R.E. curriculum.

WTS Curriculum Th.M. program

Formation for Church Leadership

| August | Semester One | J-Term | Semester Two/Summer |
|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MT210 Orientation Seminar | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MT220 Research Design• MT230 Seminar in Analysis• MT240 Seminar in Theology | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MT250 Seminar in Intercultural Hermeneutics | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MT252 Preliminary Examination• MT260 Thesis |

In addition to these courses, Th.M. candidates must take three additional M.Div. courses (nine semester credits) related to their focus area.

Master of Religious Education

The Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.) program is designed to train people in the equipping ministries of the church and society. Graduates have found employment in such vocations as Christian education direction, youth ministry, church music, hospice care, adult ministries, early childhood ministries, and in some cases as pastors of churches. The program has two tracks: a two-year residency program and a three-year "in-ministry" program for people currently engaged in a ministry setting. Applicants usually must have completed a Bachelor of Arts degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university.

Western Theological Seminary has suspended new enrollments to the M.R.E. degree program, effective fall 2002. The seminary is in the process of evaluating the program and assessing its future. Should the program be redeveloped for new applicants, a supplement to this catalog will be published.

Non-Degree-Seeking Students

Western Seminary allows those who wish to register for courses without enrolling in one of the degree programs to apply for non-degree-seeking status (see Admissions, p.48). Those admitted as non-degree-seeking students may audit courses or take courses for credit. Those wanting academic credit for a course are subject to all regular academic requirements.

Non-degree-seeking students may not register for more than 15 semester credit hours without receiving permission from the academic dean. Formation for Ministry courses and directed-study courses are not available to non-degree-seeking students.

Applications are available from the admissions office. All non-degree-seeking students must have the B.A. degree or its equivalent.

Other Programs

In addition to its regular degree programs, Western participates in other programs of specialized theological study.

For those working in or preparing for education and youth ministries in the Reformed Church in America, Western offers help in completing courses for the RCA Associate in Ministry Certification Program. Western can help students choose appropriate courses to complete the certification requirements; it also provides special short-term intensive classes in the required core areas.

Western Seminary is also a sponsor of the Hispanic Summer Program, a two-week academic program that takes place every summer at a different site in the United States or Puerto Rico. Hispanic students, as well as others who are bilingual and who are interested in Hispanic ministries, may enroll in a maximum of two courses for two credits each. Courses in the Hispanic Summer Program cover a wide range of the theological curriculum and are always taught with the Latino church in mind.

Western participates in SCUPE, the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education, located in Chicago. SCUPE offers specialized intensive courses and internships in urban ministry. See page 70 for course listings.

Applying to Western

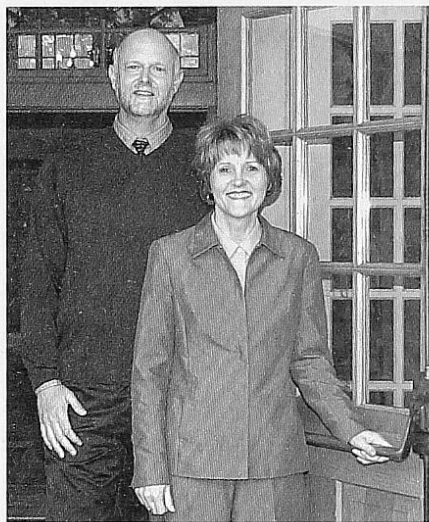


Admissions

Financial Information



Admissions



Mark Poppen, director
and Sally Vis, assistant

If you are reading this catalog, you may already sense a call from God to serve him. I invite you to visit our community. Come to Western Seminary so we can assist you in discerning God's call. I will help you to meet some of our students and faculty members. You will see our facility and our student housing. We will talk about how you might fit into our community of faith and learning. We can pray together, asking for God's clear leading and direction.

This seminary is an excellent place to prepare for a lifetime of effective ministry. I encourage you to contact me: mark@westernsem.edu or 1-800-392-8554.

Rev. Mark Poppen '80
Director of Admissions

Applicants for Master of Divinity degree:

Applicants seeking admission to the M.Div. degree program can obtain an application packet containing appropriate forms and instructions from the director of admissions.

Applicants to Western's M.Div. program must have earned a bachelor of arts degree or its academic equivalent from an accredited college or university in order to be admitted as a candidate. In some cases an applicant without a bachelor's degree but with exceptional compensatory qualifications may be admitted to the degree program under a special provision of the Association of Theological Schools standards. Such acceptance will normally be provisional pending satisfactory academic performance during the first semester.

A 2.5 grade point average (GPA) is required for admission to the M.Div. program. An applicant with less than a 2.5 GPA may be admitted on probation if the admissions committee believes there are exceptional compensatory qualifications and potential for academic success. However, a GPA of 2.5 or higher must be sustained at the seminary to qualify for the lifting of academic probation and continuation in the degree program.

Transfer students:

Western Seminary accepts credits from other graduate theological schools accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. Students seeking to transfer to Western's M.Div. program must earn at least 30 semester credit hours in residence during the senior year.

Applicants for advanced theological degrees:

Western offers two advanced theological degrees: the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) and the Master of Theology (Th.M.). Applicants seeking admission to either of these advanced degree programs can obtain an application packet containing appropriate forms and instructions from the director of the D.Min. program or the director of the Th.M. program.

Applicants to Western's D.Min. or Th.M. programs must have earned an M.Div. degree from a school accredited by the Association of Theological Schools or its academic equivalent in order to be admitted as a candidate for either of these degrees.

Non-degree-seeking applicants:

Persons interested in taking courses for personal enrichment, to equip themselves for a specific ministry within a con-

Financial Information

gregation, or to explore a sense of vocation must complete a Non-Degree-Seeking Student Application form and submit an official transcript of undergraduate or graduate degrees or courses from an accredited college, university, or theological school. Applicants can obtain the application form and further information about non-degree-seeking status from the admissions office.

Western Theological Seminary admits men and women of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race or color, or national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.

For additional information about admissions procedures for specific degree programs, see the appropriate section under "Degree Programs" (pp.39-46).

Application deadlines

Fall semester admission, M.Div. program: July 15

Spring semester admission, M.Div. program: December 1

M.Div. financial aid applications: July 15
Th.M. program, international and scholarship applicants: November 30

Th.M. program, non-scholarship applicants: July 15
D.Min. program: February 1

2003-2004 Tuition and Fee Schedule

M.Div., M.R.E., and Th.M. Programs

Charge per credit hour, on-campus \$243.00

Charge per credit hour, M.Div. distance learning (there is no auditing in the distance learning program) 265.00

The following applies to all programs:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Application fee (non-refundable) | \$30.00 |
| Acceptance confirmation fee (applied toward tuition) | 100.00 |
| Matriculation fee | 15.00 |
| Registration fee | 15.00 |
| Graduation fee | 30.00 |

The following applies to on-campus students only:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Activities fee | \$30.00 |
| Noon luncheon fee (each semester) | 20.00 |
| Tuition for auditing per credit hour | 65.00 |

There is an additional fee for the January-term retreat for juniors (\$350) and the intercultural immersion trips for middlers (to be determined). The costs of the intercultural immersion trips depend on trip destination and the actual cost of travel (range: \$300-\$1,000).

Free audits for certain courses are permitted to spouses of full-time degree students by applying to the academic dean.

Distance Learning M.Div. candidates:

The cost of transportation, meals, and lodging for the intensives courses are the responsibility of the student.

Financial Information

Drop Dates

Each semester the dean's office publishes a drop date for courses. A student will bear no academic penalty for any course discontinued prior to that date. Tuition will be refunded if a course is dropped prior to, but not after, the drop date.

Registration Deadline Penalty

A financial penalty will be applied to any class registrations that occur after the posted registration deadline.

Intern Supervision Fee

The intern supervision fee of \$200 is the responsibility of the churches and is therefore not listed in the student fee schedule.

D.Min. Program

Tuition is \$7,500 total for the three-year program, plus three fees of \$30 for application, registration, and graduation. A continuation fee of \$400 is charged for each additional year beyond the first three years in the program.

Housing

Applications for on-campus housing can be made after a student is accepted to Western. In 2003, apartment rents ranged from \$445 to \$660 per month depending upon the apartment's location and number of bedrooms.

The townhouses are an especially attractive option to families with young children. They are within walking distance of parks, churches, and the downtown shopping district. In addition to the townhouses, the seminary owns traditional apartments and houses near the campus.

Insurance

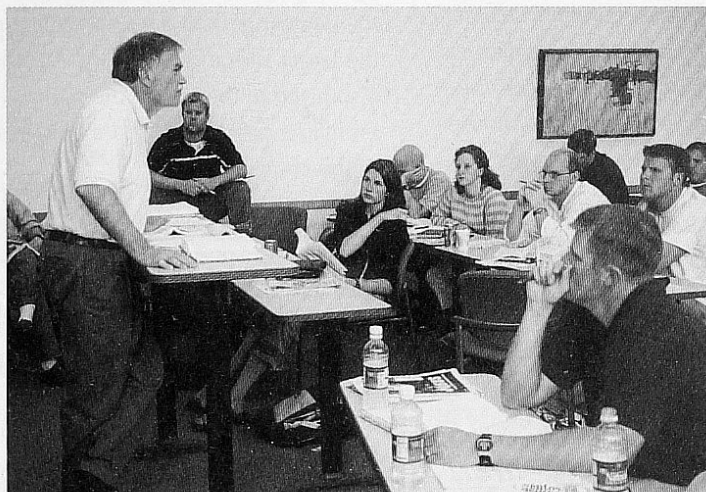
Students should carry adequate hospitalization and life insurance for themselves and their families. A major medical insurance program with G-M Underwriters is available at the seminary. Term life insurance of \$175,000 is also available through the Reformed Church in America. Students who want to participate in these programs must fill out application cards in the business office within thirty days of the first day of class.

Financial Aid

Western's financial aid programs are designed to help students meet their minimum educational expenses as they prepare for Christian ministry. The 2003-2004 total cost of educational and living expenses for nine months ranged from around \$15,186 for single students to approximately \$19,761 for married students. Students should estimate costs carefully, based on their particular needs and situations.

If a student cannot match the expected expenses with equivalent income, savings, and assistance from his or her home congregation, the student should request financial aid application and FAFSA forms from the business office. Scholarships, loans, and work opportunities are available to help meet educational costs.

Course Descriptions



Master of Divinity
Master of Religious Education
Doctor of Ministry
Master of Theology



Master of Divinity Course Descriptions

All courses receive three semester credit hours, except where otherwise indicated.

Biblical Field

Required Courses

BF100 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK
Boelkins, Van Voorst

An introduction to New Testament Greek vocabulary, grammatical forms, and sentence structure using inductive learning methods, with a view to New Testament Greek as a resource for ministry.

BF101 NEW TESTAMENT TRANSLATION
AND INTERPRETATION
Boelkins, Van Voorst

Continues BF100, with special emphasis upon syntax and translation. Introduces the tools and principles of biblical interpretation. Emphasis given to engaging the New Testament in its own linguistic, historical, and canonical context. Prerequisite: BF100.

BF102 NEW TESTAMENT LIFE AND
WITNESS
J. Brownson

An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the writings of the New Testament. Emphasis is placed upon missiological interactions among gospel, culture, and tradition in the New Testament writings as the foundation for the church's witness.

BF103 OLD TESTAMENT LIFE AND
WITNESS

Boogaart

An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the Old Testament. Emphasis is placed upon the worldviews of the Old Testament as the foundation for the church's mission.

BF110 BIBLICAL HEBREW
Bechtel

An introduction to biblical Hebrew vocabulary, grammatical forms, and sentence structure, with emphasis on reading the biblical text and using biblical Hebrew as a resource for ministry.

BF111 HEBREW TRANSLATION AND
INTERPRETATION
Bechtel

Continues BF110, with special emphasis upon syntax and translation. Introduces the tools and principles of biblical interpretation. Emphasis is on engaging the Old Testament in its own linguistic, historical, and canonical context. Prerequisite: BF110.

Advanced Courses, Old Testament

BF513 STUDIES IN PROPHETS
Boogaart

The role of prophets in Israelite society, their theology, and their impact on Western culture.

BF514 SEMINAR IN PSALMS
Bechtel

An exegetical study of selected psalms in the context of both the Old Testament and the larger canon of Scripture. Attention is also given to the role of the psalms in the liturgical, devotional, and theological life of the church.

BF517 WISDOM LITERATURE OF
THE BIBLE
Bechtel

Explores the forms, vocabulary, and concepts of wisdom in the Bible, emphasizing Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes.

BF520 ESTHER
Bechtel

A theological exposition of the book of Esther that looks to literary issues such as theme, character, and irony as guides for interpreting the book in the contexts of both the Old and the New Testaments. Originally intended as a model for life in the Jewish Diaspora, the book is a potentially important guide for Christians seeking to live faithful lives in a secular society. 1.5 credits.

BF522 OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVES
Bechtel, Boogaart

A study of the artistry and theology of Israelite storytelling.

BF523 OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY
Boogaart

Critical analysis of recent attempts at presenting an Old Testament theology. 1.5 credits.

BF527 LITERATURE OF THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD

Boogaart

The literature produced during the life of the Second Temple (515 B.C.E.–70 C.E.) provides an essential background for understanding both Judaism and Christianity. This course surveys the relevant canonical books as well as selected literature from the apocrypha and pseudepigrapha in order better to appreciate the continuity between the Testaments.

**Advanced Courses,
New Testament**

BF530 LETTER TO THE ROMANS
Van Voorst

An introduction and overview of the letter, together with exegetical study of selected portions.

BF531 SEMINAR IN THE SYNOPTICS
J. Brownson

Explores the major approaches to interpreting the synoptic gospels, along with deeper study of one synoptic gospel. Prerequisite: BF102 or equivalent.

BF532 THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

J. Brownson

Considers important historical, literary, hermeneutical, and theological issues in the Gospel of John. Prerequisite: BF102 or equivalent.

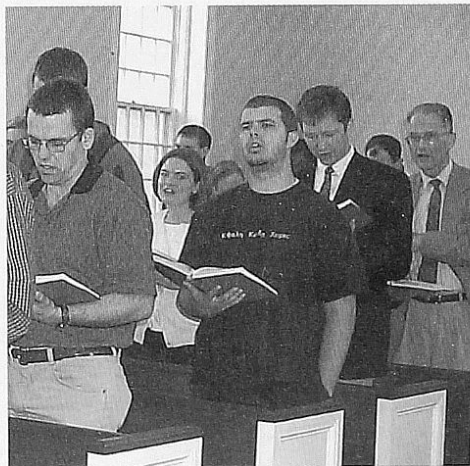
BF533 GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Van Voorst

An exegetical and participatory reading of Mark together with translation of key passages. Prerequisites: BF100, BF101.

BF534 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES
Van Voorst

Introductory material combined with an understanding of the entire book and the exegesis of selected passages in Greek.



BF535 INTERPRETING THE PARABLES
J. Brownson

A survey of recent approaches to interpreting the parables of Jesus provides the context for considering hermeneutical issues in preaching and teaching the parables. Prerequisite: BF102 or equivalent.

BF539 LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

Introduction and exegetical studies, supplemented by presentations on dominant themes of this letter viewed as a window on God's will. 1.5 credits.

BF540 LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

An exegetical reading of the entire text of this personal, pastoral, and theological treasure. Prerequisites: BF100, BF101. 1.5 credits.

Other Elective Courses

BF613 GREEK READING
J. Brownson, Van Voorst

Maintains and enhances Greek language skills through weekly translation practice. Pass/fail, 1 credit.

BF614 HEBREW READING
Bechtel, Boogaart

Maintains and enhances Hebrew language skills through weekly translation practice. Pass/fail, 1 credit.

Master of Divinity Course Descriptions

BF616 CHRISTIANITY IN LITERATURE
A study of biblical and theological motifs in selected poetry, prose, drama, and film, ranging from John Milton to Frederick Buechner.

BF617 THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN: EXPLORING BIBLICAL AUTHORITY AND CHURCH ORDER

J. Brownson

In-depth biblical exegesis and focused theological and hermeneutical reflection around the ordination of women—in an attempt both to assist students to clarify their understanding of this particular issue and to provide handles and tools for wrestling with the use of Scripture in the ordering of the church's life more generally. A full range of views on the topic will be explored. 1.5 credits.

Theological Field

Required Courses

TF100 THE CHURCH'S LIFE AND WITNESS (150-1536)

Kaiser

A study of the history of the church and its mission from 150-1536. Attention given to ways in which the church's life and faith have shaped and been shaped by its various contexts and experiences and by its

various forms of worship, proclamation, discipleship, and governance.

TF101 THE CHURCH'S LIFE AND WITNESS (1536-PRESENT)

Voskuil

A study of the history of the church and its missionary expansion from 1536 to the present. Attention given to the American church and to the student's denominational heritage and the ways its life and faith have been shaped by its various contexts, experiences, forms of worship, proclamation, discipleships, and governance.

TF104 INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY AND WORSHIP
T. Brown, Stubbs

This introductory course combines concerns that would usually be considered separately in courses in theology and worship, as a reflection of the deeply held Reformed and ecumenical conviction, *lex orandi, lex credendi*. Holding these two basic realities together, we will seek to deepen our understanding of the core aspects of the Christian faith, explore how theology and worship both shape and are shaped by the other, gain a growing capacity for thinking critically about our theology and worship, and develop skills for worship leadership.

TF111 MISSIONAL CHURCH
Hunsberger

An introduction to missiology, ecclesiology, ecumenics, and eschatology that provides biblical-theological vision for the life and witness of the church in the contemporary world. Emphasis is given to the way social and cultural factors form the church in any time and place, the missional challenges facing the churches of North America at the present moment, and the unity in mission to which all the churches of the world are called. Prerequisite: TF104.

TF113 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I
Kaiser

This theology course explores the doctrine of God, the doctrine of Christ, and the doctrine of humanity. These three big headings include many other matters of theological importance, including Trinity doctrine, divine attributes, providence, atonement, resurrection, sin, and the image of God. Readings will range from early church to contemporary sources. Prerequisite: TF104.

TF114 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY II
Van Dyk

This theology course explores the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and all the implications of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believing community, including justification and sanctification, predestination, freedom, forgiveness, sacramental theolo-

gy, and an understanding of Scripture and divine revelation. Readings will range from early church to contemporary sources. Prerequisite: TF104.

TF121 CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Explores how the theological vision of the Christian community expresses itself in specific intentions, practices, virtues, and actions and how Christian communities can grow in moral discernment.

Prerequisites: TF104, TF113.

TF124 CREDO

This senior seminar will guide the student in the writing of a theologically comprehensive statement of Christian belief and vision of life and ministry. Students must either have completed or be concurrently registered for TF111, TF113, and TF114.

Advanced Courses, Systematic Theology

TF450 RCA STANDARDS

A survey of the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dort designed to highlight distinctive elements of the Reformed tradition and to prepare RCA candidates for their ordination examinations. 2.5 credits.

TF510 THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A biblical and theological study of the work of the Holy Spirit in relation to the

individual, the church, and the world. Special attention is given to the role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life and to the charismatic movement.

TF512 MINISTERING TO SCIENCE-MINDED PEOPLE

Kaiser

Reviews the present scientific account of the origin and evolution of the universe as well as the biblical teaching about creation to equip students in relating to scientists and engineers.

TF513 CALVIN'S LIFE AND THEOLOGY

An introduction to Calvin's life and thought, indicating their relationship at various points, as well as the relevance of Calvin's theology to various contemporary issues. Principal texts are Calvin's first catechism (1538) and a commentary on this text by the instructor. The Institutes will be used to supplement the catechism.

TF518 BARTH'S DOCTRINE OF RECONCILIATION

Van Dyk

Focuses on the very important Vol. 4 of Karl Barth's *Church Dogmatics*. Topics for reading and discussion include atonement, incarnation, and resurrection, as well as Christian virtue and the work of the Holy Spirit.

TF520 GLOBAL MISSIOLOGY

Hunsberger

Examines the way mission is envisioned and practiced by ecumenical, evangelical, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Pentecostal, and developing-world churches in the various contexts of the modern world. Special attention is given to issues and challenges confronting the church in the twenty-first century.

TF523 DOCTRINE OF THE ATONEMENT

Van Dyk

This course will survey the rich variety in the doctrine of the atonement throughout Christian history, will examine the range of important theological issues and themes in the doctrine, and will raise lively pastoral issues that surround this doctrine. Sources will include the biblical materials, devotional and liturgical texts, and a selection of theological materials from the patristic period to the present.

TF524 THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

This course will examine one of the most pastoral and yet most sensitive of Christian doctrines in all of its ramifications: providence and history, providence and prayer, providence and pastoral care, and the question of God's sovereignty and human freedom. Special attention will be given to the question of how one reconciles belief in an Almighty God with the tragedies of human existence and natural catastrophes.

Master of Divinity Course Descriptions

TF525 REFORMED THEOLOGIES:
CALVIN, EDWARDS,
SCHLEIERMACHER, AND
BARTH

Stubbs

Students will examine the historical context and primary texts of four major Reformed theologians: John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, Friedrich Schleiermacher, and Karl Barth. We will consider the cultural and theological pressures they faced and how they addressed the three main theological questions: providence and election, revelation and natural theology, and the roles of Christ and Church in redemption.

TF565 SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY
Chase

Academic theology has tended to narrow its focus in regard to spiritual theology. This course will approach spiritual theology with questions that involve both heart and mind. It will cover the foundation of spiritual life in Christian doctrine, theology and the life of prayer, the spiritual journey and its goal, discernment of spirits, mystical theology, the relationship between contemplation and compassion, and devotional practice as new ways of knowing.

Advanced Courses, Historical Theology

TF451 RCA HISTORY

Examines the development of the Reformed Church in the context of North America. Special attention will be devoted to the leaders, approaches, and philosophies of RCA missions. 2.5 credits.

TF519 UNIQUENESS OF JESUS CHRIST
Van Dyk

Explores current theological conversations on issues in Christology and Trinity, such as the centrality of Jesus Christ in revelation, salvation, and eschatology. Global perspectives on Christology will be discussed, along with perspectives from theologies from the margins and questions raised by encounters with other world faiths. These contemporary conversations will be placed in a context of the historic Christian faith and the Reformed theological perspective.

TF530 ANTI-NICENE THEOLOGIANS
Kaiser

(first seven weeks of the semester) Analysis and seminar-style discussion of the Apostolic Fathers and other primary sources from the second and third centuries. The class will develop a methodology for reconstructing the context of the authors' theologies from the texts themselves. 1.5 credits. Prerequisite: TF100.

TF531 NICENE AND POST-NICENE
THEOLOGIANS

Kaiser

(second seven weeks of the semester) Analysis and seminar discussion of the writings of Saint Athanasius and other theologians of the fourth century. Topics include the Trinity, creation, Christology, and the Atonement. 1.5 credits. Prerequisite: TF530.

TF532 AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO
Kaiser

(first seven weeks of the semester) Analysis and seminar discussion of the Confessions and other writings of Saint Augustine. The class will develop a methodology for reconstructing the context of the author's theologies from the texts. 1.5 credits. Prerequisite: TF100.

TF533 EARLY REFORMERS
Kaiser

(second seven weeks of the semester) Analysis and seminar discussion of the writings of Martin Luther and other reformers prior to John Calvin. Topics include the fallen condition of humanity, the divine gift of salvation, and Christian lifestyle. 1.5 credits.

TF537 THE CHURCH IN THE AGE OF
REASON (1648-1800)

Kaiser

The development of modern theology is traced from the rise of classical mechanics to the Industrial Revolution.

**TF539 THE LIFE AND THOUGHT OF
TODAY'S GLOBAL CHURCH**

A survey of the churches of the world and the variety of patterns of life and mission they exhibit, with particular emphasis on churches of the developing world. Special attention is given to the ecumenical movement in its various forms, the contributions of developing-world theologies, and the emergence of developing-world mission initiatives.

**TF540 REFORMED CHURCH IN
AMERICA (1628 -)**

The history, liturgy, polity, missiology, and theology of the RCA.

**TF549 CHRISTIAN PRAYER:
THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE**
Chase

Explores models of prayer in Christian faith, theology, and practice. Students will experience and practice many forms of prayer, meditation, and contemplation. Integrating theory and practice, students will consider the nature of prayer in their personal spiritual journeys within the life of the worshiping community and as an aid to discernment. Readings, lectures, practices, and discussions will cover Christian prayer from the biblical period to the present.

TF554 FEMINIST THEOLOGIES

An analysis of the historical and contemporary relationships between women and the church using the writings of feminist theologians, particularly their readings of biblical texts and their critiques and revisionings of traditional doctrines.

**TF563 HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN
MYSTICISM**

Chase

An investigation of the theological, historical, biblical, philosophical, and contemplative roots of the Christian mystical traditions. One of the goals of this course is to develop the ability to appreciate and evaluate diverse forms of spirituality and mysticism. Course will include lectures, readings of primary and secondary sources, discussions, exposure to meditative and contemplative practices, and journaling.

TF572 READINGS IN NEWBIGIN
Hunsberger

A half-semester seminar researching and discussing Newbigin's writings on mission theology, ecclesiology, cross-cultural witness, ecumenism and church unity, inter-religious dialogue, encounter with Western culture, eschatology, and pastoral leadership. The seminar group will engage some foundational writings together, and each student will explore some particular

facet or theme within Newbigin's writings.
1.5 credits.

Advanced Courses, Ethics

**TF545 ECCLESIOLOGY, POLITICS, AND
ECONOMICS**

Stubbs

Building on an ecclesiological foundation, we will examine foundational principles of modern political and economic thinking, evaluate responses to contemporary capitalism and the emerging global economy, and examine models of Christian churches, organizations, and movements concerned with political and economic issues.

TF546 WAR AND PEACE

Stubbs

We will consider Christian views on war, peace, and peacemaking. We will survey some of the key theological and biblical perspectives on war from both a historical and a theoretical perspective, and then look more carefully at various Christian responses to select wars and Christian movements of peace and reconciliation.

TF550 CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ETHICS

Christian responsibility in the areas of war and peace; uses of atomic energy; and social justice, politics, and race. Each student selects an area for special concentration.

Master of Divinity Course Descriptions

TF551 HISTORICAL CHRISTIAN ETHICS
A survey of major Christian formulations of the ideal Christian life from biblical times to the present.

TF555 THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY IN THE COMPUTER AGE

Smith

How should the church proclaim the gospel in a world pervaded by computer technology? Through readings, discussions, media presentations, and visits to the workplace, the class explores questions related to human self-understanding and develops a theological framework for addressing specific situations created by the use of computers.

TF557 CHRISTIAN SEXUAL ETHICS
Introduces a broad range of issues in sexual ethics in a way that models a process of moral discernment that can produce clear and practical understandings of how Christians' sexual lives ought to be lived. Coursework includes designing a resource for moral discernment that could be used in a particular ministry setting.

TF558 JUSTICE, PEACE, AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

An in-depth exploration of Christian ethics, including the process of ethical decision-making and the substance of the Christian ethical tradition. Particular atten-

tion is given to issues of social justice, global peace, and ecological degradation.

Other Elective Courses

TF617 ECCLESIASTICAL LATIN

An introduction for students who have had little or no Latin, beginning with classical Latin grammar and syntax and moving on to ecclesiastical Latin readings. (Offered on request.)

TF618 THEOLOGICAL GERMAN

Inductive study of basic German grammar and syntax and of selected texts in contemporary German theology. (Offered on request.)

TF621 APOLOGETICS IN POST-CHRISTIAN CULTURE

Voskuil, K. Voskuil

Helps students to interpret and commend the Christian faith in a non-Christian culture. If we are to be effective apologists today, we must have a clear understanding of and a firm conviction about the core beliefs of the Christian church, as well as a keen awareness of the cultures in which they are received and interpreted.

TF622 MISSION AND MINISTRY ACROSS CULTURES

V. and C. Sterk

An introduction to the intercultural dimension of the church's life and mission,

including insights drawn from cultural anthropology, communications theory, mission history, biblical hermeneutics, and mission theology. Special attention is given to developing a theology of cultural plurality with implications for witness, conversion, and ministry.

TF623 CHRISTIAN WITNESS AMONG PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS

Investigates historical forms of encounter between Christianity and other religions and current models of witness and dialogue. The philosophies of religion, missiological convictions, and personal attitudes involved in various approaches will be explored.

TF624 CURRENT ISSUES IN MISSIOLOGY

A seminar research course on a particular facet of mission theory or strategy of contemporary importance. The course is offered and the topic chosen based upon the interests of students and the identification of a critical area of concern in the church's life and mission.

TF631 CHRISTIANITY AND POPULAR CULTURE

Van Voorst

An analysis from an interdisciplinary viewpoint of the relationship of Christianity and popular American culture, especially the electronic mass media.

Students will build a theological understanding of this relationship and will gain ministry skills to help Christians relate to popular culture in a faithful way.

TF632 CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS

Van Voorst

An introduction to the beliefs and practices of the major religions of the world, with a study of their scriptural traditions. New religions such as Scientology, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ("Mormons") are also treated, paying special attention to their relationship to Christianity. The Christian theological response to other religions is also considered.

TF633 MADE IN AMERICA: A STUDY OF INDIGENOUS SECTS AND CULTS

Voskuil

This course will examine several religious groups that have been spawned in the U.S. and Canada, such as the Latter-day Saints (Mormons), Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Scientists, Seventh-day Adventists, the New Age movement, and the Nation of Islam. Students will study these movements and examine the North American culture that produced and nurtured them. 1.5 credits.

Christian Ministry Field

Core Requirements

CM101 INTRODUCTION TO PREACHING

T. Brown

First-year students explore and grasp a biblical and Reformed vision of preaching. Includes a sermon preparation workshop and a "lab" in which written and preached sermons are carefully analyzed by faculty and peers. Significant homiletical concerns are presented, discussed, clarified, and applied to the task of preaching. 3 credits.

CM102 SEMINAR IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Chase

Our vocation to love God "with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" is a challenge for people of faith today as it has been throughout the centuries. The seminar will survey diverse traditions of Christian faith to see how believers throughout history have responded to and struggled with being formed in faith and love. Using a variety of spiritual practices and through critical reflection, students will explore formation in loving God with heart and soul and mind. 1.5 credits.

CM103 SEMINAR IN CONGREGATIONAL STUDIES

G. Brown

This seminar cultivates the art of knowing a congregation—its context, character, and vocation. Skills of observation, discovery, and interpretation are practiced, and the capacity for theological discernment in peer collegiality is nurtured. 1.5 credits.

CM112 SEMINAR ON COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL

This seminar cultivates the ability to communicate the gospel in articulate, relevant, and true ways among people for whom faith in Jesus Christ is not yet formed. The seminar nurtures personal practices and patterns of communication that correspond to the calling of the whole people of God to give witness to Christ in life, word, and deed. 2 credits.

CM113 SEMINAR ON THE PASTOR AS PERSON

Hamman

This seminar asks students to call on their own selves as God calls them to the ministry. Students will be empowered to address their wholistic health proactively, while being warned against the inherent dangers of being in the ministry. Through the processing of verbatim and through pastoral preaching, the students will reflect on the selves they bring to their ministries. Students must either have completed or be concurrently registered for CM115. 2 credits.

Master of Divinity Course Descriptions

CM115 AN INTRODUCTION TO COUNSEL AND CARE

Hamman

In this introductory course, students explore giving counsel and offering care as ministers of Word and sacrament. They develop an understanding of the fundamental principles of pastoral care and acquire basic skills required for giving counsel and offering care. Numerous pastoral themes are addressed in lectures, learning labs, and small group interaction. Students will be encouraged to develop their own pastoral presence in offering counsel and care.

CM120 LEADING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Voskuil

An introduction to the theory and practice of Christian leadership from a missional and theological perspective. A course for seniors.

CM121 CHURCH GOVERNANCE AND DENOMINATIONAL STANDARDS (J-TERM)

Within the context of an overall theology of church governance, explores the candidate's specific ecclesiastical tradition (including polity and standards) as a framework for mission. 2 credits.

CM122 EMPOWERING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

G. Brown

This course is designed to introduce learners to the field of Christian religious education and to equip them for the church's teaching ministry. In addition to developing an understanding of fundamental principles of teaching and learning, learners will be exposed to five basic models of teaching and locate themselves within one of four distinctive approaches to Christian religious education.

CM123 SEMINAR ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

G. Brown

This seminar integrates experiential learning in teaching churches under the supervision of mentors with critical reflection in peer group settings on the practice of

Christian religious education. The focus is on developing competence as a teacher and learner through the practice of ministry and critical reflection. Students must either have completed or be concurrently registered for CM122. 1.5 credits.

CM124 WORSHIP

Bechtel

An exploration of the ways in which the church's worship declares God's worth, expresses the church's faith, mediates divine grace, and empowers God's people for mission. 1.5 credits.

Vocational Courses, Pastoral Care and Counseling

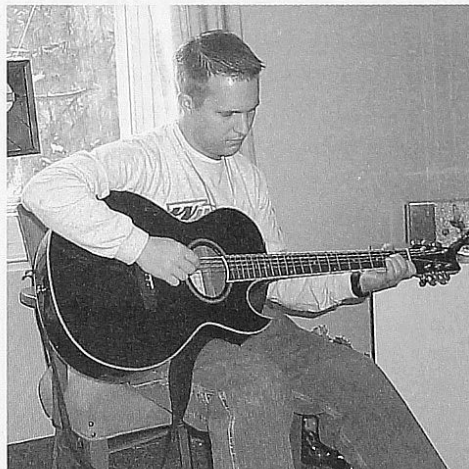
CM170 PASTORAL THEOLOGY

Hamman

A biblical and historical introduction to the art of pastoral ministry. This course is rooted in the study of biblical images for pastoral ministry. It will also reflect on timeless insights offered by a number of the great pastors of the Christian church, historical and contemporary. Biblical and historical material serve as conversation partners for discussing specific pastoral practices.

CM510 MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING

This course is designed to increase the participant's ability to build effective



communication patterns in marital or premarital relationships and to enable the person in ministry to develop counseling and enrichment strategies for couples and families. Spouses are required to take the course with the students. Students without spouses should consult instructor prior to registration. Prerequisite: CM115 or permission of the instructor.

CM511 ADVANCED PASTORAL COUNSELING

Skill development in integrating theology, psychological theory, and pastoral counseling relationships, using seminar discussions, reality practice, and case material. Prerequisite: CM115.

CM512/EM473 MINISTRY IN GROUP RELATIONSHIPS

An exploration of the way people learn to live and work together in the covenant community. The pastor, director of religious education, or church leader develops theory and skill as an empowerer of ministry by church members in the contemporary world through experiences in group relationships.

CM513 BASIC CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

A pastoral ministry practicum that integrates the theory and practice of ministry in a clinical setting, with special attention given to the person in ministry. A basic

practicum accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education; 6 credits.

CM514 MINISTRY WITH THE AGING
Explores the dynamics of aging, with emphasis on the abilities of older persons within the life of the church. An experience-based component includes involvement in local nursing homes and congregations. Seven weeks; 1.5 credits.

CM515 SHAME, ABUSE, ADDICTIONS AND THE CHURCH

A review of the psychosocial/spiritual dynamics of shame, abuse, and addictions with consideration of how congregations can provide environments of prevention/education and recovery from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and addictive behaviors. Seven weeks; 1.5 credits.

CM522 COUNSELING YOUTH *Hamman*

Students will be equipped to understand teenagers and adolescents from a developmental framework (i.e., physiological, emotional, cognitive, relational, social, and spiritual development) and will gain effective counseling skills to inform any youth ministry. The class will involve lectures, collaborative learning groups, and role-play before video cameras.

Prerequisite: CM111 and current engage-

ment in a ministry that includes working with youth.

CM578 WOUNDED HEALER *Hamman*

Addresses the relationship between a pastor's personality (which includes the desire for healing, wholeness, and holiness) on the one hand, and a pastor's conviction of being called by God to enter the ministry on the other. To highlight the dynamic relationship between the deeply personal and the grace-filled mystery, the class will look at the psychobiographies of pastors and prominent theologians (Luther, Bonhoeffer, and others).

CM580 GROUP SPIRITUAL DIRECTION *Chase*

The spiritual direction relationship begins with an invitation from God to be together. It is surrounded by prayer and the contemplative art of listening with one's whole being. Group spiritual direction involves a facilitator and three to five other persons seeking the guidance and will of God together. The process involves a time of silence, sharing of a participant, silence, response from the group, and silence. The process is repeated for all members of the group. 1.5 credits.

Master of Divinity Course Descriptions

Vocational Courses, Religious Education

CM531/EM711 CURRICULUM EVALUATION AND DESIGN

G. Brown

Analysis and evaluation of Christian education resources and curricula designs. Students develop skills for evaluating and designing a Christian education program.

CM532/EM574 EQUIPPING FOR TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP

G. Brown

Skills taught in this course include discerning spiritual gifts, calling people to service, and equipping teachers and leaders for their ministries and affirming their contributions. A variety of methods and media will be used.

Vocational Courses, Worship and Preaching

CM130 PREACHING FROM LUKE *W. Brownson*

Explores distinctive themes in the Gospel According to Luke to develop skills in exegesis and preaching and to provide resources for a possible series of sermons on Luke. 1.5 credits.

CM451 RCA WORSHIP *T. Brown*

Drawing from Scripture and Reformed confessions and liturgies, and in sympathetic discussion with a wide range of other worshiping traditions, this course will present, discuss, clarify, and apply a Reformed vision of worship to congregational settings in the RCA in the United States and Canada. 2.5 credits.

CM555 SEEKER-SENSITIVE PREACHING *T. Brown*

Investigates, evaluates, and implements strategies for preaching in a "post-Christian" culture. The course will evaluate the phenomenon of "seeker-sensitive worship" and offer a vision for preaching that is both responsive to the Reformed heritage and sensitive to contemporary culture.

CM557 PREACHING AND THE LITERARY FORMS OF THE BIBLE *T. Brown*

An exploration of the particular demands of preaching from the apocalyptic literature of the Bible. Focusing largely on the Apocalypse of St. John, the course will investigate preaching themes in corresponding Old Testament works such as Daniel and Ezekiel. Preaching is required, and each student will leave the course with a specific preaching plan.

CM564 THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD AND THE LAND AND CULTURE OF THE BIBLE

T. Brown

The Bible, by God's design, was written by human beings living in a specific time and place. A faithful interpretation, application, and proclamation of the biblical witness requires an understanding of the cultural, political, and geographical context from which it arose. Material will be drawn from work done previously in the biblical field, Jewish and rabbinic studies, and an intensive travel seminar in Israel itself. The Jewish roots of the Christian faith make significant implications for the ministry of the Word in the twenty-first century.

CM567 SPIRITUALITY FOR PREACHING *T. Brown*

Participants explore and exercise the classic disciplines of the Christian life that for centuries have sustained those whom God has called to preach. The course focuses on a "contemplative exegetical" reading of St. Paul's letter to the Colossians. In alternating rhythms of lectio continua and lectio divina, prayer, silence, meditation, and mutual encouragement, participants ready themselves for "a long obedience in the same direction."

CM568 PREACHING AND PAIN

T. Brown

Skill development for dealing with the deep pains of the human experience in relation to the biblical vision of hope and healing. Preaching is required in this course. Seven weeks; 1.5 credits.

CM576 CALLED TO PREACH

T. Brown

A course for the person sensing a call to a life of proclamation in the parish setting. Students will examine varying homiletical models to help them discover their "voice" for the task of preaching, to consider a range of sermon planning possibilities, and to investigate approaches for dealing with the inevitable conflicts of preaching in a parish setting. The course involves the regular rhythm of lectures, discussions, and preaching labs. Prerequisite: CM101.

CM652 PREACHING EPHESIANS

W. Brownson

This course is designed to enhance skills in exegesis, sermon preparation, and sermon delivery, equipping students for a series of expository sermons on the faith-vision of this magnificent letter. 1.5 credits.

**Vocational Courses,
Leadership**

CM450 RCA POLITY

G. Brown

A survey of the Book of Church Order and the organizational theory, structure, and function of the Reformed Church in America. 1.5 credits.

CM523 LEADING CHANGE IN MINISTRIES AND CONGREGATIONS

MacLeod

Will examine the theory of leading change in ministries and congregations through empowering learning. The theory of the learning organization and its primary focus on guiding change will be applied to ministry and congregational cases. Students will draw upon their Teaching Church experience as actual cases to investigate. Assignments will include applying the five principles for leading learning organizations.

**CM526 LEADERSHIP FOR A
REVITALIZED CHURCH IN
MISSION**

Menning, Eriks

This course will help students understand the leadership issues necessary for shaping a healthy and missional congregational culture. Nurturing congregational health and vitality, leading change, shaping congregational culture, and organizing for mission are the key components of this

course. A wide range of church and community leaders will be invited to help introduce students to central concepts and contextual applications for what is being learned.

**CM570/EM575 EQUIPPING FOR
EVANGELISM**

W. Brownson, V. Sterk

Develops a theology of evangelism as the announcement of the kingdom of God and cultivates patterns of practice that give living form to that announcement in the life of "missionary congregations." Assesses contemporary models and examines forms of leadership that stimulate the dynamic of evangelism in a congregation.

**CM572 ADVANCED GROUP
LEADERSHIP**

Selected students are invited to assist in facilitating courses in group dynamics, religious education, and formation for ministry reflection groups. While assisting their instructors, participants engage in their own study and/or research of group dynamics, leadership, and participant roles (by permission of instructor).

Master of Divinity Course Descriptions

CM573 ADVANCED PRACTICUM IN MINISTRY

Advanced students integrate biblical, theological, and historical understandings with pastoral and pedagogical principles and express this integration in the actual practice of ministry.

CM574 SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND GUIDANCE

A course with an experiential focus, in which students develop the disciplines necessary for growth in the Spirit through journal writing, prayer and meditation, and learning to offer spiritual direction to others.

CM588 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST HISTORY AND POLITY

With denominational roots spanning four centuries, the United Church of Christ brings together a variety of theological, ethnic, and ideological perspectives. This course explores its history, structure, mission, and ethos. Seven weeks; 1.5 credits.

Other Vocational Courses

CM524 INTRODUCTION TO CAMPUS MINISTRY

Floding

Examines the issues confronting the chaplain or church-based campus ministry position including worship, faith development of eighteen- to twenty-four-year olds,

pastoral care challenges, engaging faculty, working with the administration, international student ministry, self-care, and proven models. 1.5 credits.

CM525 MINISTRY IN A POSTMODERN WORLD

MacLeod

Many of today's congregational practices find their roots in mid-twentieth-century culture and are now colliding with aspects of the emerging new twenty-first-century culture. This course will examine dominant social aspects of the emerging culture often called "postmodern." Values, beliefs, and assumptions of modernity and postmodernity will be theologically and socially critiqued and examined with regard to their implications for congregational and ministry practices.

CM577 RURAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

Floding

Students sensing a call to serve in a rural ministry setting will explore the opportunity and challenge from a social systems perspective. Sixty percent of RCA congregations are in town and country settings with populations of 50,000 or less. Students will consider rural church leadership in light of its spiritual, geographic, social, economic, demographic, and political contexts. This learning experience includes significant interaction with a rural

RCA pastor, the Rural Church Network, and a field trip. Seven weeks; 1.5 credits.

CM610 ADVANCED CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

All clinical pastoral education beyond the first unit. 6 credits.

CM611 GUIDED RESEARCH IN COUNSELING

A largely independent study concentrating on some area of pastoral counseling. (Offered on request.)

CM620/EM721 CHRISTIAN MINISTRY WITH YOUTH

A practicum treating the development and religious needs of youth and ways to design, implement, and support youth ministry in the congregation.

CM621/EM722 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OF ADULTS

G. Brown

Developmental characteristics and religious needs of adult learners, learning styles and appropriate instructional methods, and program design and resources are covered in this course. Students develop a philosophy of Christian education with adults.

CM623 ADOLESCENT CULTURE

Explores the questions, What is the nature of culture generally and of popular and

youth culture specifically? How do trends in youth culture influence young people growing up in America? How can one keep track of all that is going on in youth culture? How does the gospel intersect with youth culture, and how should those who want to make the gospel come to life for young people respond?

CM650 GUIDED RESEARCH IN PREACHING

A largely independent study concentrating on some area of preaching. (Offered on request.)

Formation for Ministry

FM101 RETREAT FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION (J-TERM)

Floding

A spiritual retreat using autobiography, peer engagement, and the spiritual disciplines to assist students in clarifying and embracing God's call upon their lives.

2 credits.

FM111 INTERCULTURAL IMMERSION EXPERIENCE (J-TERM)

Provides cognitive and experiential knowledge of the global character of the church's witness and mission in North America and around the world, with concern for the problems and opportunities posed by cultural differences, secularism, social fragmentation, religious pluralism, and ecumenism. 2 credits.

FM115 PRACTICE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY (PART-TIME MINISTRY)

Four 100-hour units of supervised part-time ministry in a Teaching Church setting selected in consultation with the Formation for Ministry office. The student establishes appropriate learning covenants in cooperation with a ministry-setting mentor. Learning goals are pursued using an action/reflection model that integrates theory, practice, and the person in ministry. This learning/serving commitment is evaluated by the student, the mentor, and the site team. Concurrent participation in a peer group is required while completing these units. 1 credit.



FM125 ADVANCED PRACTICE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

This 400-hour full-time supervised ministry experience requires the student to exercise a wide range of ministerial skills at the highest personal, professional, and pastoral levels. This requirement may be satisfied in a number of settings including participation in Clinical Pastoral Education, parachurch ministries, cross-cultural ministries, and congregational ministry. Due to the significant level of ministerial and educational investment, it is highly recommended that the student invest time in a discernment process with the Formation for Ministry office before selecting a placement. This learning experience will be evaluated by the student, a supervising mentor, and a lay support committee. 2 credits.

FM126 LAUNCHING YOUR MINISTRY

Identifies and discusses leadership issues related to making a positive transition from seminary student to called and ordained clergy in a new ministry setting. 2 credits.

Master of Religious Education Course Descriptions

Summer Seminars

EM410 ORIENTATION SEMINAR: CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

G. Brown

An introduction to the program dealing with six foundational issues of Christian formation and discipleship. Reading is required before the seminar. Meets annually the third week of August. 1 credit.

EM510/CM690 HISTORY OF THE THEORY AND PRAXIS OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

G. Brown

A survey of various theories and praxes of Christian formation through the church and parachurch organizations.

EM710/CM579 EQUIPPING FOR PARTNERSHIP, JUSTICE, AND PEACE

Examines ways to educate for partnership, peace, and justice by imagining and constructing a climate of partnership instead of domination and by imagining ways to create a compassionate alternative to war and violence in the world.

Required Courses

EM411 OLD TESTAMENT LIFE AND WITNESS

Boogaart

An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the Old Testament. Emphasis is placed upon the worldviews of the Old Testament as the foundation for the church's mission.

EM412 NEW TESTAMENT LIFE AND WITNESS

J. Brownson

An introduction to the content, history, and theological dynamism of the New Testament. Emphasis is placed upon missiological interactions among gospel, culture, and tradition in the New Testament writings as the foundation for the church's witness.

EM471 EQUIPPING FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND CHURCH RENEWAL

Floding

Disciplines for spiritual formation and methods of guidance that enable personal and church renewal. The class designs models for equipping congregations in spiritual growth.

EM501 THE CHURCH'S LIFE AND WITNESS (1536-PRESENT)

Voskuil

A study of the history of the church and its missionary expansion from 1536 to the present. Attention is given to the American church and to the student's denominational heritage, and the ways its life and faith have been shaped by its various contexts, experiences, forms of worship, proclamation, discipleships, and governance.

EM511/TF111 MISSIONAL CHURCH

Hunsberger

Develops a theological vision for the life and witness of the church in North America, in light of the church's mission, and explores strategies for empowering the church to clarify and embrace its mission.

EM512 CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Provides an overview of central doctrines of the historic Christian faith, with particular focus upon an understanding of the Triune God.

EM514 PSALMS, PROPHETS, AND SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Boogaart

A reading and exegesis of some of the prophets and psalms, with implications for social ministries.

EM576/CM530 LIVING THE
CHRISTIAN YEAR

A practicum on nurturing Christian faith through the celebration of the church year in worship, education, and mission. Attention is given to the sacraments.

EM647 INTERCULTURAL IMMERSION
Provides cognitive and experiential knowledge of the global character of the church's witness and mission in North America and around the world, with concern for the problems and opportunities posed by cultural differences, secularism, social fragmentation, religious pluralism, and ecumenism. 2 credits.

Ministry Units and Elective Courses

EM441 MINISTRY UNITS I-V
G. Brown

Five ministry units or their equivalents are required for In-Ministry M.R.E. degree students. Ministry units are independent, self-designed units of study that are related to students' jobs. They are designed in consultation with a faculty director and approved by a faculty committee.

EM574/CM532 EQUIPPING FOR
TEACHING AND
LEADERSHIP

G. Brown

Skills taught in this course include discerning spiritual gifts, calling people to service, and equipping teachers and leaders for their ministries and affirming their contributions. A variety of methods and media will be used.

EM615 ROMANS
Hesselink

An exegesis of Romans with attention to its nature, purpose, and theology.

EM645 TRANSFORMATIONAL
LEARNING WITH ADULTS
G. Brown

Examines the educational philosophies of Paulo Freire and Myles Horton and their contributions to the Christian religious education of adults. Attention is given to alternative pedagogical methods.

EM711/CM531 CURRICULUM
EVALUATION AND
DESIGN

G. Brown

Analysis and evaluation of Christian education resources and curricula designs. Students develop skills for evaluating and designing a Christian education program.

EM721/CM620 CHRISTIAN MINISTRY
WITH YOUTH

A practicum treating the development and religious needs of youth and ways to design, implement, and support youth ministry in the congregation. Offered in alternate years.

EM722/CM621 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
OF ADULTS
G. Brown

Developmental characteristics and religious needs of adult learners, learning styles and appropriate instructional methods, and program design and resources are covered in this course. Students develop a philosophy of Christian education with adults. Offered in alternate years.

EM723/CM554 CHILDREN AND
WORSHIP

A practicum treating the development and religious needs of the young child (ages three to seven) and ways to design an environment that enables children to worship God.

Doctor of Ministry Course Descriptions

DM810 ORIENTATION SEMINAR *Boogaart, Hamman*

Introduces major components of the program. During the seminar, students refine their program of study, work on designing two learning units and one elective, and set goals for increased competency in ministry during the ensuing year. Meets for three weeks in May-June; 4 credits.

DM811-812 LEARNING UNITS
Learning units are primary building blocks of the D.Min. program. A learning unit is a specific action-reflection exercise that furthers the candidate's knowledge, skill, and personal competence in ministry in a specific discipline with carefully defined objectives related to the overall program goal. Students develop two learning units during the first year. 4 credits.

DM813 ELECTIVE 1
Students select electives that will deepen the focus of their program of study or that will strengthen them in a particular area of the practice of ministry. An elective may be self-designed, or a formal educational course or intensive may be chosen. 4 credits.

DM820 CANDIDATE SEMINAR *Smith*

Begins the second year of the program, culminating and integrating the first year's work and providing a foundation for the second year. Meets for three weeks in May-June; 4 credits.

DM821-822 LEARNING UNITS
Learning units are primary building blocks of the D.Min. program. A learning unit is a specific action-reflection exercise that furthers the candidate's knowledge, skill, and personal competence in ministry in a specific discipline with carefully defined objectives related to the overall program goal. Students develop two learning units during the second year. 4 credits.

DM823 ELECTIVE 2
Students select electives that will deepen the focus of their program of study or that will strengthen them in a particular area of the practice of ministry. An elective may be self-designed, or a formal educational course or intensive may be chosen. 4 credits.

DM830 PROJECT SEMINAR *Kaiser*

Begins the third year, in which students design a project based upon their first two years' work. Students are expected to have completed four learning units and two electives prior to entering this seminar. Meets for two weeks in May-June; 4 credits.

DM840 PROJECT
Design and execution of a project is the final stage of the D.Min. program. The D.Min. project consists of an original investigation or activity in ministry and affords students an opportunity to develop a mature practice of ministry characterized by careful scholarship. 12 credits.



Master of Theology Course Descriptions

MT210 ORIENTATION SEMINAR *Karsen*

A one-week intensive seminar introducing the Th.M. program by forming a "cross-cultural community of scholars" in which scholarly reflection will be done. This academic pursuit will be achieved by creating new configurations of self-understanding for theological reflection in community and by introducing the philosophy, format, and thesis requirements of the Th.M. program. Meets annually the third week of August. 1.5 credits.

MT220 RESEARCH DESIGN *Chase*

This course is designed to assist Th.M. students in the preparation of a thesis proposal by introducing the basics of academic research and writing. By the end of the course the student 1) will be able to construct a well-designed research proposal; 2) will be familiar with basic strategies and tools for research and academic writing; and 3) will plan a research strategy for writing a Th.M. thesis. Meets monthly during the first semester. 1 credit.

MT230 SEMINAR IN CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS *V. Sterk*

Develops theoretical orientations and methodological skills for contextual analysis with three foci: sociological, cultural,

and psychological. Meets during the first half of the first semester. 1.5 credits.

MT240 SEMINAR IN THEOLOGY AND ITS CONTEXTS *Stubbs*

Explores issues surrounding the cultural embeddedness of theology. We will examine how the idea of "context" is related to debates about theological method and consider how to understand the relationships between our theology and the Holy Spirit, the "culture" of the church, and the larger cultures in which we find ourselves. 1.5 credits. Prerequisite: MT230.

MT250 SEMINAR IN INTERCULTURAL HERMENEUTICS *Chase*

Explores and applies methodologies for the interpretation of Scripture in cross-cultural contexts and addresses the interaction of gospel and culture in intercultural dialogue. Meets in the J-term. 1.5 credits. Prerequisites: MT230, MT240.

MT252 PRELIMINARY EXAM

A faculty advisor, in consultation with the candidate and a faculty colleague, develops a general bibliography of three to six titles. The list reflects the major contributors to a particular discipline, the methodological issues involved in that discipline, and the current questions or debates among scholars in that discipline most relevant to the thesis topic. The advisor

also develops a written paragraph that identifies the purpose of the course of readings, its intended applicability to the candidate's thesis topic, and the foci of the examination. The examination is given immediately following spring break. It has two components: a two-hour written examination conducted by the advisor, and a 45-minute oral examination conducted by an examination committee.

MT255 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

In the event that courses critical to a Th.M. candidate's program are unavailable within current curriculum offerings, the candidate may request an independent study in a particular field of inquiry within the chosen focus area. It may be done only with the consent of a professor who provides guidance and evaluation and only with the approval of the academic dean. It may combine course materials from a required M.Div. course with additional independent work, at the professor's discretion.

MT260 THESIS

A major research paper that builds upon and extends in a focused area the knowledge and critical ability gained in the basic divinity degree. The topic and plan are subject to the approval of the Th.M. Committee. The candidate's advisor, in conjunction with a second reader, provides guidance for the research. 6 credits.

SCUPE Courses

Western Theological Seminary participates in SCUPE, the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education, located in Chicago (www.scupe.com). SCUPE offers specialized intensive courses and internships in urban ministry. To take a course, students register with Western Theological Seminary, pay the course fee here, and send SCUPE a completed single course registration form. Information on schedules and registration for these courses is available from Western's student support services department.

SCUPE M305: DIMENSIONS AND DYNAMICS OF URBAN MINISTRY: THE GOSPEL IN THE CITY

This course, organized as a sequence of days concentrating on particular neighborhoods and the ministries at work within them, demonstrates a variety of approaches to gospel in the city. These conversations with Urban ministers provide a comprehensive view of SCUPE's approach to Urban Work. 3 credits

SCUPE B-Th302: URBAN PRINCIPALITIES AND THE SPIRIT OF THE CITY

Drawing from recent theological work on the biblical language of power, this course will seek to understand the city, its sys-

tems and its ministries by understanding the "principalities and powers." 3 credits

SCUPE M304: Christology and Culture
Employing a narrative hermeneutic, introduces Christology from a global, cultural and liberational perspective – and its significance for urban missiology. 3 credits

SCUPE S-H303: PUBLIC ISSUES IN URBAN MINISTRY

Examines the critical issues affecting the quality of life for those living in major metropolitan areas. An in-depth examination of the contributions of faith communities to social analysis, public theology, and transformation in relation to issues such as welfare reform, racism, poverty, violence, gentrification and the like.

SCUPE M306: URBAN PREACHING INTENSIVE

Acknowledging the diverse rhythms and styles of city congregations, takes biblical approach, with particular attention to the prophets and Jesus as Spirit preachers. Emphasis on discerning signs of the times and on proclamation that breaks the grip of urban principalities. 2 credits

SCUPE S-H305: RESTORING URBAN COMMUNITIES

Introduction to principles and practices of church-based community development. Presents the relationship between biblical

faith and development practice through site visits to effective models and an overview of the resources and leadership skills necessary for effective community development. 3 credits

SCUPE SUPERVISED MINISTRY PRACTICUM

Focuses on personal formation for ministry by integrating work in the ministry setting with SCUPE's academic course load. A case study approach, provides a forum for faith sharing, self-awareness of gifts for ministry, and peer group theological reflection on actual ministry. It is the course vehicle for SCUPE's internship field education/ministry credit. Credit varies by seminary.

SCUPE M302: CROSS CULTURAL MINISTRY INTENSIVE

Using the city as a multicultural global laboratory, this two-week intensive provides a practical theology for ministry in a multicultural context, engages biblical study of the early church's struggle with cultural barriers, encourages respect and appreciation of world-views and value systems different from one's own, offers training in movement and communication across cultural divides, and exposes students directly to a wide variety of ministries in diverse cultural settings. 3 credits

Scholarships, Grants, and Loans



Scholarships

Grants

Loan Funds

Internship Funds



The following scholarship funds have been established for North American students:

Nellie Albers Scholarship Fund

Created by Nellie Albers to assist Western Seminary students.

Alumni/ae Scholarship Fund

Established by Western Seminary graduates during the Campaign for Western to encourage deserving students to attend the seminary.

Arthur P. and Anne S. Andree Scholarship Fund

Created by Robert and Mary Kay (Diephuis) Andree to honor their parents and provide scholarship assistance to WTS students in need of financial help.

George C. and Clara Arnold Memorial Fund

Established by John J. and Rhea V. H. Arnold in honor of John's parents. Tuition scholarships based on academic excellence and demonstrated need.

John J. and Rhea V. H. Arnold Endowed Scholarship

Assists students studying for the ministry of the Reformed Church in America; based on academic excellence and financial need.

Lucille Beasley Fund

Created through the estate of Lucille Beasley for the benefit of married students.

Merle and Alyda Boes Fund

A fund provided by this couple to assist Western Seminary students with financial aid.

Bouwens Scholarship Fund

Established by Lila Bouwens of Holland, Michigan. First preference for this scholarship goes to a member of Second Reformed Church in Zeeland, Michigan, or to a member of the Zeeland Classis, then to a member of the Reformed Church in America.

Gordon and Carol Boven Fund

Created by this couple to assist Western Seminary students with financial needs.

Ronald and Elizabeth Boven Scholarship

Created by Ron and Libby to aid students needing financial assistance.

Warren and Jeanne Burgess Endowed Scholarship Fund

Created by family, friends, and members of Faith Reformed Church of Traverse City, Michigan, to honor this couple for faithful service to Christ in the churches they served for forty-three years.

Tom and Nancy Claus Scholarship

Established by this couple to assist deserving Western Seminary students.

John O. and Aletta De Cook Scholarship Fund

Created by Kay and Mark DeCook in memory of his parents. Preferences for awarding this scholarship are as follows: 1) candidate from Trinity Reformed

Church in Pella, Iowa; 2) candidate from Third Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa; then 3) any eligible candidate.

Lee and Linda De Visser Scholarship Fund

Tuition scholarships based on academic excellence and financial need.

Den Herder Family Scholarship Fund

Established to provide scholarship aid to deserving students based on academic excellence and financial need.

David and Audrey Dolfin Fund

Created to support Wisconsin students attending Western Seminary. Secondary recipient should be an RCA member.

Steve Driesenga Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established by Ken and Fran Driesenga and the people of Ottawa Reformed Church in West Olive, Michigan, in memory of the Driesengas' son, Steve. Tuition scholarships are awarded to male students preparing for gospel ministry from the Zeeland Classis if possible, or from any RCA church, on the basis of financial need.

Oliver Gerrit Droppers Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established by his sons, Oliver J. and Carl, to be awarded for academic excellence in and personal commitment to evangelism.

The Rev. and Mrs. John D. Dykstra Scholarship Fund

Created through the estate of Josephine E. Thostenson of Cedarville, Iowa, to honor

her parents. There are no restrictions or suggestions for application of this scholarship.

Elton M. Eenigenburg Memorial Scholarship

Tuition scholarship awarded to a male student preparing for the gospel ministry in preaching in the Reformed Church in America and demonstrating financial need. Elton Eenigenburg was professor of Christian Ethics and Philosophy of Religion from 1952-1985, as well as Academic Dean from 1961-1977 and Dean of the Faculty from 1986-1987.

Faith Reformed Church in Zeeland, Michigan, Scholarship Fund

Scholarship granted to students from Faith Reformed Church in Zeeland or from the Zeeland Classis or as named by the administration.

Fifth Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Endowed Scholarship

Created from the trust of Peter and Gertrude Hondorp by their son through Fifth Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Nelson Fisher Scholarship

Established by Anne Fisher in honor and memory of her husband. Preference will be given to 1) a student from First Reformed Church in Grand Haven, Michigan, or 2) a student from Muskegon Classis.

Gano, Trinity, and United Reformed Churches Scholarship Fund

Tuition scholarships based on academic excellence and financial need.

Gratitude Fund Scholarship

Anonymous gift that funds scholarships for Western Seminary students.

John W. Grooters II Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established by John and Luella Grooters on behalf of John W. Grooters II and granted to students preparing for full-time positions in ministry.

Hebrew Evangelization Society, Inc., Los Angeles, Theological Scholarships

Tuition scholarships granted each year by the administration to full-time M.Div. students committed to the ministry. Based on financial need.

Rev. Herman Harmelink and Thyrsa Eringa Harmelink Scholarship

Established by Dr. Philip J. Harmelink in memory of his parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Herman Harmelink.

Donald and Vernon Hoffman Scholarship

Established by the two brothers, both Western Theological Seminary graduates. Vernon served as Director of Advancement and Communications at Western.

Hoffman Family Scholarship

Established by the extended Hoffman family, which has sent thirteen members into the RCA pastorate, eleven of whom attended

Western Theological Seminary. The thirteen include Benjamin, 1898; Benjamin Jay, 1938; Bruce, 1964; Craig, Donald, 1955; Harold, 1934; Harvey, 1935; James, John, 1874; Justin, 1925; Milton, 1914; Robert, 1977; Vernon, 1959. The award is to be granted to an RCA member planning to serve in this denomination.

Harvey B. and Iola Hoffman Scholarship Fund

Established by Jon and Karen Hanson in honor of Karen's parents, the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Hoffman. Tuition scholarship based on academic excellence and financial need with first preference for students interested in urban ministry.

David and Leslie Hooker Scholarship

Established by this couple to assist deserving Western Seminary students.

Robert L. and Judith S. Hooker Scholarship

Created by David and Leslie Hooker in honor of Robert and Judith's 50th wedding anniversary.

Henry and Eleanor Hooyer Scholarship

Created by Eleanor Hooyer in loving memory of her husband, Henry. Preference is given to a student from northwest Iowa who is preparing for pastoral ministry. Financial need is a consideration in awarding this scholarship.

Huizenga Family Scholarship

Created by the extended family of Elizabeth Huizenga.

Richard and Marie Jager Scholarship Fund

Established by Marie to honor her husband, Richard, a Western Seminary graduate.

Ella Jungling Scholarship Fund

Tuition scholarships granted each year by the administration.

The Jurries Scholarship Fund

A fund established by James and Ginger Juries to assist students with strong academic credentials who show promise of being outstanding pastors. The fund may be used as an incentive to encourage students to attend Western Seminary.

James P. Kamp Endowed Scholarship

Established through a gift from James P. Kamp.

The Kleinheksel Family Scholarship

Established by Paul and Jackie Kleinheksel in honor of Paul's father, Henry Kleinheksel, who served as Business Manager of Western Seminary. The scholarship provides tuition assistance based on academic excellence and demonstrated financial need.

Adrian Klepper Memorial Scholarship

Established by Tom, Stephen, Gregory, and Donald Thomas through Consumer Concrete Corp. of Kalamazoo, Michigan, to honor their grandfather, Adrian Klepper, the founder of the corporation. Scholarships are granted to students demonstrating academic excellence and financial need. Preference is given to students from the Southwest Michigan Classis.

George and Elsie Kloote Scholarship

Established by a gift from the couple to assist needy students.

Ervin Knooihuizen Scholarship

A fund created from the estate of Mr. Knooihuizen to assist students with financial aid.

The Benjamin and Lucile Lemmen and Oliver and Angeline Kraay Scholarship Fund

Established by Russell J. and Gwendolyn L. Kraay in honor of their parents and awarded on the basis of academic excellence and financial need.

The Sena, Gertrude, and Margaret Lieveuse Scholarship Fund

Established by Margaret in memory of her two sisters, Sena and Gertrude Lieveuse, to provide assistance to married students, preferably with children.

Maas Scholarship Fund

Established by Leonard and Marjorie Maas of Grandville, Michigan, for deserving students who are committed to the beliefs and standards of the Reformed Church in America and who show promise of outstanding leadership in the church.

Mephibosheth Scholarship Fund

Established by the estate of Peter De Korte through his Fellowship Homes, Inc., Fund. This scholarship is to be awarded to students with physical disabilities.

Linnea Nelson Scholarship Fund

Tuition scholarships based on academic excellence are granted to the highest-ranking students in the entering junior class, and/or in the middler and senior classes.

Andrew and Marion Nyboer Scholarship Fund

Established by Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Nyboer to provide tuition assistance to deserving students based on academic excellence and/or financial need. Preference is given to female students.

Cornelius and Della Ooms Memorial Scholarship Fund

Given by Mr. and Mrs. Bert Ooms in memory of Bert's parents. Tuition scholarships granted to students of Ross Reformed Church in Gary, Indiana; or of the Illiana Classis; or as named by the administration.

John M. Osterhaven Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established from the estate of John Osterhaven. John was an uncle of Dr. M. Eugene Osterhaven, Emeritus Professor of Systematic Theology at the seminary. Tuition scholarships granted annually by the administration.

Richard C. Oudersluys Scholarship

Established by the congregation of Third Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan, to honor one of its longstanding members, the Rev. Dr. Richard C. Oudersluys, who taught at Western Seminary for more than thirty-five years. Preference is given to

Third Reformed Church members or candidates from the Holland Classis.

Peter N. and Winifred Veld Paarlberg Scholarship

Created through the estate of Peter and Winifred Paarlberg, long time members at First Reformed Church of South Holland, Illinois. The primary recipient will be a member of First Reformed, with secondary consideration given to a student from Illiana Classis or finally to an RCA member.

Margaret McKay and David E. Post Scholarship

Established by Nancy and Robert Post in memory of their parents. Tuition scholarship based on financial need.

Presidential Scholarships

The presidential scholarships are made up of a bequest from the estate of the Rev. and Mrs. James A. (Margaret) Wayer and from funds given to the seminary by members of the family of the late Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ridder Sr. Scholarships are granted each year to the highest-ranking students in the middler and senior classes.

Jacob J. Prins Memorial Fund

Established to honor the late Dr. Jacob Prins, a very significant pastor and minister of evangelism for the Reformed Church. Tuition scholarships granted to Hispanic, African American, or American Indian; physically handicapped; or economically or educationally restricted students who have demonstrated financial need.

Eleanor M. Redeker Memorial Scholarship

Created through the estate of Eleanor by gifts from her sisters, Marion Redeker and Elaine Redeker Bruins. Aid will be granted based on academic excellence and financial need. First preference will be given to an RCA student from Wisconsin, second to a female international student.

Ralph and Lynnore Robrahn Scholarship Fund

An endowed fund created by Reynold and Mary Helen MacDonald of Oak Brook, Illinois, to honor Ralph and Lynnore Robrahn, their pastor and his wife.

Wayne and Doris Schipper Scholarship

Established by Wayne and Doris Schipper to provide scholarship assistance to deserving students based on financial need.

Elizabeth Schouten Scholarship

Established through the residue of a charitable gift annuity with Elizabeth.

Darell and Mary Schregardus Fund

This scholarship was created to assist students with financial aid based on academic excellence or demonstrated need.

Schregardus Family Foundation Scholarship

Established by Ralph and Cheryl Schregardus for tuition assistance based on academic excellence and demonstrated financial need. Preference given to students from Wisconsin.

The Southgate Community Church Scholarship Fund, Classis of Lake Erie

Funded by proceeds of the disbanded Southgate Community Church. Awards are granted to students based on financial need, with those from the Classis of Lake Erie receiving first consideration.

Paul H. Tanis Scholarship Fund

Created to honor the Rev. Paul Tanis, this fund is a continuation of the ministry of One Way, Inc. Scholarship granted to students preparing for youth ministry, domestic missionary service, international missionary service, or parish ministry.

Anna Mae Tenson Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established through the estate of Ruth Tenson De Witte to provide scholarship money for students based on financial need.

Third Reformed Church Scholarship Fund

Funded by members of Third Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa, for deserving students, with first preference for members of that congregation and then for other members of Pella Classis. If there are no such applicants, then the scholarship may be given as determined by Western Seminary.

Donald and Lileeth Van Ark Scholarship

Created by this couple to assist deserving students at Western Seminary. Recipient selection will be as follows: 1) a member of Central Park Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan; 2) a member of Holland Classis; 3) a member of the RCA.

Jay and Adelle Van Daalen Endowed Scholarship

A tuition scholarship established by Jay and Adelle Van Daalen. Primary recipients are to be graduates of Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Ada Van Dyke Scholarship

A fund to assist RCA students with financial need. The fund is in honor of Ada Van Dyke's sons-in-law, Thomas Keizer and Rowland Van Es, and two grandsons, David Van Dyke and Rowland Van Es Jr., who are all graduates of Western Seminary.

Van Hamersveld Scholarship Fund

Established by Dale and Dorothy Van Hamersveld. Tuition scholarships for women in the M.Div. program based on academic achievement and prospective Reformed Church in America ordination.

Jacob Van Heest Scholarship Fund

Created by Jacob Van Heest's daughter and son-in-law, Joel and Marianne Bouwens.

John J. and Lucille B. Van Heest Memorial Fund

Established by John J. and Rhea V. H. Arnold in memory of Rhea's parents. Tuition scholarships based on academic excellence and financial need.

The Rev. and Mrs. J. B. H. Van Lierop Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established by their sons, Beryl, John, and Peter, and daughter, Joanne Izenbart.

Tuition scholarship based on academic excellence and financial need. Preference is given 1) to members of the extended Van Lierop family, 2) to students planning to enter foreign mission service, and 3) on the basis of financial need.

Dick J. and Ethel Vanden Heuvel Scholarship Fund

Scholarship assistance for RCA students based on financial need. Preference given to female students, then to older students with families.

Tom and Virginia Vander Kuy Scholarship

Established to provide scholarship assistance to deserving students based on academic excellence or financial need.

Virginia Vander Kuy Scholarship

Established in memory of Virginia Vander Kuy by her husband, Tom. The scholarship is awarded to deserving students, with preference given to female students.

Rev. Henry and Alberta Vermeer Scholarship Fund

Established by members and friends of First Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa, on the occasion of the Vermeers' sixtieth wedding anniversary and of Henry's sixtieth anniversary of ordination in the RCA. The fund honors Henry and Alberta for their faithful service to the church of Jesus Christ, for their pastoral leadership of First Reformed Church from 1966 to 1973, and for their participation, support, and gentle presence in their retirement. Awarded to students intending to serve an RCA congregation.

Preference is given to members of First Reformed Church, Pella, or candidates from the Central Iowa Classis.

Victor Ver Meulen Memorial Scholarship

Created by Mildred Ver Meulen in memory of her husband, Victor, to provide scholarship aid to deserving students, based on academic excellence and financial need.

Lawrence W. and Kathryn Middlebush Ver Sluis Scholarship Fund

Awarded on the basis of financial need and intent to serve the Reformed Church in America. First consideration will be given to a member of North Park Reformed Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan; then to an RCA member from Southwest Michigan Classis; then to an RCA member.

Robert L. Wade and Lyda H. Wade Memorial Scholarship Fund

Tuition scholarships granted by the administration.

James and Margaret Wayer Fund

Presidential tuition scholarships based on academic excellence, granted each year to the highest-ranking students in the mid-dler and senior classes.

Rev. Jay Weener Scholarship Fund

Established by family, friends, and members of Second Reformed Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to honor the Rev. Dr. Jay Weener, longtime RCA pastor and professor of preaching at Western Theological Seminary.

Nell E. Wichers Scholarship Fund

A scholarship fund created from the trust of Nell E. Wichers by her sisters, Elizabeth DuMez and Janet Waanders.

Edward and Vera Wolfert Memorial Fund

Subsidies for student housing based on academic excellence and demonstrated need.

Cecil (Bob) and Marion H. Zeinstra Scholarship

A fund created by Marion Zeinstra in memory of her husband, Cecil (Bob) Zeinstra. Established to provide tuition assistance to deserving students based on academic excellence and/or financial need. Preference is given to female students.

The following endowed funds have been established to provide scholarship assistance to international students studying at Western Theological Seminary:

Nancy Bedingfield International Scholarship Fund for Th.M. Students

Established by members of Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to honor the wife of their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Robert Bedingfield, with whom Nancy served at Central for eight years.

Cornelia Dalenberg Scholarship Fund

Assists international students or students committed to mission service.

The Jeanette Fieldhouse Scholarship

A scholarship to assist in the education and training of international students, with first preference for a student from India.

The Piet Family Scholarship Fund

Established by members, relatives, and friends of the Piet family. Family members Wilma, Ann, and John Piet served as missionaries in India, Nepal, and Japan and on the faculty of Western Theological Seminary.

Mildred Schuppert Endowed Scholarship

Established through the estate of Mildred Schuppert, a long-time librarian at Western Seminary.

The Annette Ter Louw Endowed Scholarship Fund

Created to honor Annette by Trinity Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa, along with many family members and friends. Recipients of the scholarship will be Japanese students studying at Western.

Evie Van Dorp Endowed International Student Fund

Assists international students studying at Western Seminary. The fund honors Dawn Boelkins, director of the international student program when the fund was created.

Gilbert, Mina and Margaret Vanden Broek Memorial Fund**Nellis and Pearl Wagner Overseas Graduate Student Scholarship Fund****John Rose Foreign Scholarship Fund****Agnes VanderHart Memorial Scholarship Fund**

The following scholarships have been established for graduate study:

Erwin and Edith Bach Scholarship for Pastoral Care and Counseling

Established by sons David, Paul, and Philip to be awarded annually to a Western graduate who 1) has shown promise in pastoral care and counseling and 2) is seeking graduate training in counseling or psychotherapy.

Henry J. Beukema Graduate Scholarship

Established by the Rev. and Mrs. Henry J. Beukema to assist Western M.Div. graduates who are preparing for a ministry in theological education. Recipients shall show promise for advancing Reformed theological scholarship by teaching or publishing in their chosen discipline. Financial need will be considered. Applicant eligibility limited to graduating M.Div. seniors.

Osterhaven Graduate Scholarship

Established by John and Mattie L. Osterhaven to provide a graduate fellowship award to be determined by the faculty and administrative staff of Western Seminary.

Other grants:

Peter C. Cook Management Seminar Grants

Grants senior students travel expenses to attend the annual Institute for Successful Church Leadership at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California.

Library Memorial Funds

Lena Kolkman Memorial Fund (for archives); John P. Luidens and G. John Kooiker Memorial Fund (for books); Lewis Scudder Memorial Fund (for books on Middle East study and missions); Menno and Ida Smith/Frank and Christine Mastenbrook Memorial Fund.

Loan funds:

Student Loan Funds

Church Agency Loan Fund; The Rev. Donald Boyce Memorial Loan Fund; John De Haan Student Loan Fund; Perkins Loan Program (formerly NDSL); Western Theological Seminary Memorial Loan Fund (including the following memorial funds in the names of: John Benes; George R. Brandt; Francis and Reina De Jong; Nettie De Jong; Clarence Denekas; John Den Ouden; Mr. and Mrs. H. John Hoff; Henry Huenemann; Marguerite E. Kinkema; Fanny Ludwig; Herman and Helen Meurs; Henry Mollema; Albertus Pieters; Rens-Van Westernburg; Randy Rosenberg; Henry and Minnie Ten Clay Sr.; Fanny Vande Bunte; Robert and Samuel Vander Ploeg; Lucille B. Van Heest; First Reformed Church in Ravenna, Michigan); anonymous donor.

Internship funds:

Robert and Martha De Bruyn Internship Fund

Provides for student internships in creative churches in metropolitan communities. Preference will be given to gifted students who have an expressed interest in urban or intercultural ministry.

Mabel Kemper Fund

Created by her sister, Lillian Van Dyke, to honor Mabel for her creative and devoted work in helping to establish a mission station and gospel-sharing program in Chiapas, Mexico. Earned income from this investment may support an intercultural immersion experience or seminary intern in Chiapas.

Wesley and Nell Kiel Scholarship Fund

Established by family, friends, and members of Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Michigan, to honor the Rev. Dr. Wesley Kiel and his wife, Nell, on the occasion of his retirement from full-time ministry. Dr. and Mrs. Kiel served Christ Memorial Church for eighteen years. The award supplements student internships and supervised ministry experiences in churches that could not otherwise afford it.

Vande Bunte Family Trust

A fund created by Harold Vande Bunte to provide finances for the training of seminary students at First Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan, in conjunction with the Teaching Church program at Western. The pastor of First Reformed Church and the Director of Formation for Ministry at Western will select the participating student(s).



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Western Theological Seminary

2004-2005 Academic Calendar

| | |
|---|----------------|
| MRE/Th.M. seminars | August 16-20 |
| Junior M.Div. orientation | August 24-26 |
| Middler/Senior M.Div. orientation | August 26 |
| All-Seminary retreat | August 27 |
| First semester begins | August 30 |
| Half semester | October 15 |
| Fall break | October 18-19 |
| Thanksgiving recess | November 22-26 |
| First semester ends | December 15 |
| Exam period | December 16-17 |
| Christmas break begins | December 17 |
| January intensives | January 3-12 |
| Break | January 13-14 |
| Second semester begins | January 17 |
| Senior trip to California | January 24-7 |
| Half semester | March 4 |
| Winter break | March 7-8 |
| Spring break | April 4-8 |
| Awards convocation | April 28 |
| Second semester classes end | May 3 |
| Exam period | May 4-5 |
| Graduation | May 9 |
| D.Min. seminars | May 16-June 3 |
| Application deadline for Fall admission | July 15 |

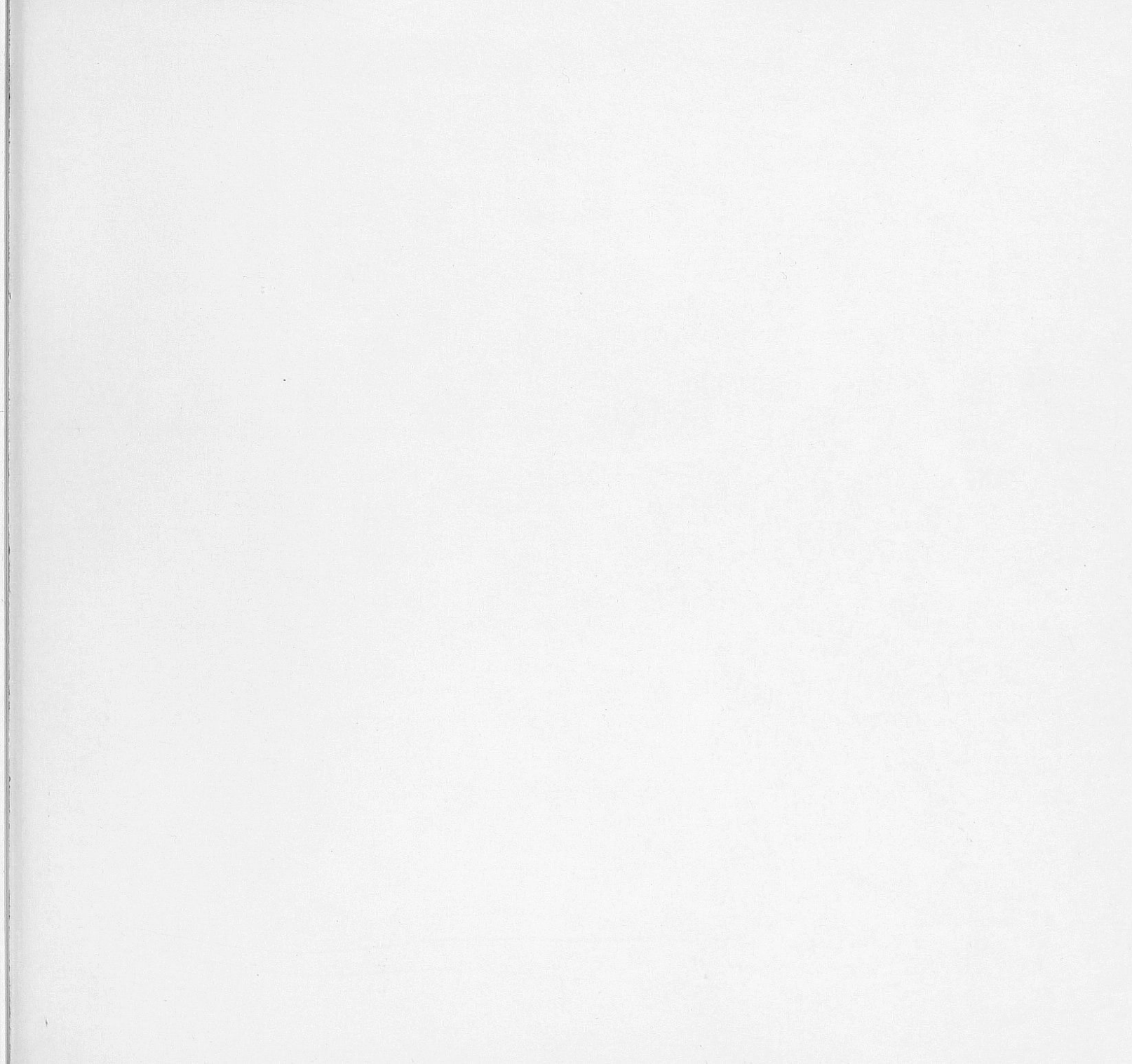
2004-2005 Distance Learning Academic Calendar

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Fall Semester | August 30-October 29 |
| Winter semester begins | November 8 |
| Thanksgiving break | November 22-26 |
| Christmas break | Dec.17-31 |
| January Intensives | January 2-14 |
| Winter semester ends | March 11 |
| Summer semester begins | April 18 |
| Summer Intensive | May 23-June 3 |
| Summer semester ends | July 29 |

Western Theological Seminary is an institution of the Reformed Church in America and an accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools. Its degree programs are authorized by the Department of Education of the State of Michigan. The seminary is approved for veterans' education under the provisions of the Veterans Administration.

Copies of the Association of Theological Schools standards for theological schools and the accreditation process are available for review at the registrar's office. A copy of Western's current accreditation certification is also available for review at the registrar's office.







WTS WESTERN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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